THURSDAY
April 10, 2025

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AICC SESSION

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Understanding India's China conundrum

New Delhi should not lower its guard

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CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Arsenal stuns Real; Inter beats Bayern

SPORT » PAGE 20

NEARBY

Soon laws to regulate online gaming

BENGALURU
In response to the growing surge in online betting and gaming activities, the Karnataka government is working on establishing a legal framework to regulate the sector. » PAGE 2

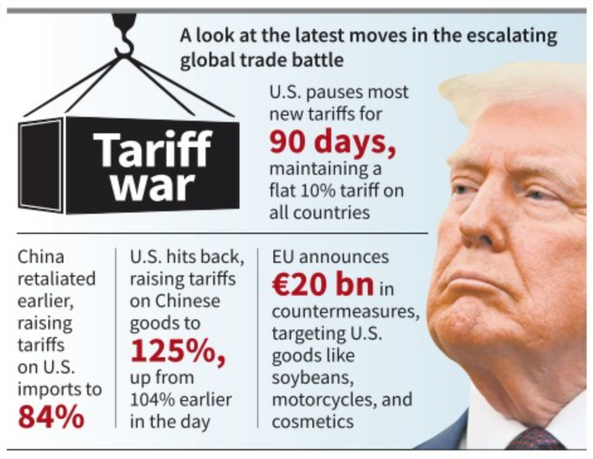
Pending Bills: State may think of moving SC

BENGALURU
The Karnataka Cabinet is likely to discuss and decide on approaching the Supreme Court for delay in according sanction to Bills by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot. Currently, six Bills are with the Governor's office awaiting assent. » PAGE 8

Trump pauses tariffs by 90 days; slaps China with 125%

U.S. President says he took decision after countries reached out to negotiate; U.S. earlier ramped up duties on Chinese goods to 104%, after which Beijing had increased retaliatory tariffs to 84%

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON


A look at the latest moves in the escalating global trade battle
Tariff war
U.S. pauses most new tariffs for 90 days, maintaining a flat 10% tariff on all countries
China retaliated earlier, raising tariffs on U.S. imports to 84%
U.S. hits back, raising tariffs on Chinese goods to 125%, up from 104% earlier in the day
EU announces €20 bn in countermeasures, targeting U.S. goods like soybeans, motorcycles, and cosmetics

U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly backed down on Wednesday in his global trade war with a 90-day pause for most countries, but slapped even more levies against China in what has become a full-scale confrontation between the world's two largest economies.

"I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE" on higher tariffs that took effect on Wednesday, Mr. Trump said on the Truth Social network, saying he took the decision after more than 75 countries had reached out to negotiate and did not retaliate against the United States.

"Based on the lack of respect that China has shown to the World's Markets, I am hereby raising the Tariff charged to China by the United States of America to 125 percent, effective immediately," Mr. Trump added.

Mr. Trump had only hours earlier ramped up the duties on Chinese goods to a giant 104%. China then retaliated by rising tariffs on U.S. imports to 84%. Following days of global market turmoil, Wall Street stocks surged in reaction to Mr. Trump's announcement.

Only a flat rate of 10% tariffs on all countries that took effect on Saturday will remain in place. This marked a stunning reverse from often punishing levies that hit even many of the closest U.S. allies.

But Mr. Trump accused China of still "ripping off" his country. "At some point, hopefully in the near future, China will realize that the days of ripping off the U.S.A., and other Countries, is no longer sustainable or acceptable," Mr. Trump said.

The European Union had earlier launched its own counter-attack, announcing measures targeting some U.S. products from Tuesday in retaliation for American duties on global steel and aluminium exports.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

RBI cuts repo rate by 0.25%, trims GDP growth forecast

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India slashed the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6% on Wednesday, with its Monetary Policy Committee voting unanimously to reduce the policy rate in a bid to support growth and bring down the interest burden on home, auto, and other loan borrowers. However, this will also reduce the interest earned on savings by depositors.

The move comes against the backdrop of an escalating global trade war, triggered by U.S. President Donald Trump's wide-ranging tariffs. The MPC has also lowered its forecast for India's GDP growth this year, from 6.7% to 6.5%.

This is the second time in a row that the MPC has cut the repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) or 0.25%. The committee, headed by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, also unanimously shifted its policy stance from neutral to accommodative, indicating that it is more worried that economic growth could be a casualty of the trade war, than about inflation.

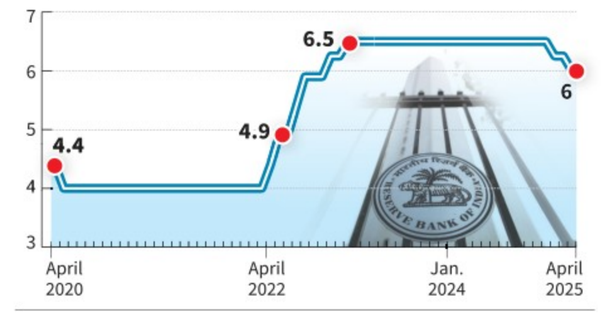
This is a policy stance "geared towards stimulating the economy through softer interest rates," Mr. Malhotra said, signalling the likelihood of further rate cuts.

"Uncertainty in itself dampens growth by affecting investment and spending decisions of businesses and households," he said, in a monetary statement explaining the situation. "Second, the dent on global growth due to trade friction will impede domestic growth. Third, higher tariffs shall have a negative impact on our exports," he said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Credit cushion

The Reserve Bank of India slashed the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6% on Wednesday. The repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends to banks to meet their short-term funding needs



Rana likely to reach today, set to face trial in 26/11 attack case

Suhasini Haidar
Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Tahawwur Hussain Rana, the Pakistan-born Canadian-American national wanted in connection with the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks conspiracy, has been extradited by the U.S. and is expected to arrive in India on Thursday to face trial. This comes 17 years after the attacks that killed over 166 people in 2008.

Officials involved in the investigation and diplomatic sources confirmed that the U.S. authorities handed over the custody of the 64-year-old Rana to a special team of the National Investigative Agency on Wednesday morning. The Indian plane carrying Rana and the NIA officials is likely to land in the national capital. Rana will then be transferred to custody and the trial process will begin.

On Monday, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts rejected Rana's review petition, his last appeal against the extradition. "The application for stay addressed to The Chief Justice and referred to the Court is denied," the one-line order read.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Activist petitions Gehlot for prosecution of Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

In what might bring fresh trouble to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, a petition has been submitted to Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot seeking sanction for prosecution for a decision taken in his earlier tenure to provide "deemed extension" for C category mines to eight mining companies in alleged violation of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 2015.

The Chief Minister, however, refuting all charges, late on Wednesday said a 10-year-old case was being brought up "to create confusion for political gains". Seeking prosecution sanction, petitioner H. Ramamurthy has pointed out that XXI Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge and Principal Special Judge for CBI cases, Bengaluru, had on November 24, 2017, given him the liberty to approach the appropriate forum, and that he was filing a formal complaint with the Lokayukta now.

Meanwhile, appealing to people not to believe the "political conspiracy", Mr. Siddaramaiah termed the development as "a baseless issue being fed to pollute the minds of people". He also said certain "evil powers" have been attempting to mislead the Raj Bhavan since he took oath.

'Deemed extension'

The petition dated April 1, 2025, sought sanction for prosecution under Sections 17A and 19 of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 5

Water tariff revision announced

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BWSSB has announced a revision of water tariffs with new slab-based rates. The new rates will be officially notified on Thursday.

The domestic charges range from 0.15 to 1 paisa a litre. While domestic high-rise users face rates up to 1 paisa based on volume, non-domestic rates go up to 1.90 paisa a litre. Sewerage charges are set to increase by 25%, and sanitary charges for borewells will rise by ₹30 (domestic) and ₹125 (non-domestic), with new special sanitary categories.

DETAILS ON » PAGE 3

Centre approves ₹63,000-crore deal for procuring 26 Rafale-M jets from France

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved a nearly ₹63,000 crore deal for the procurement of 26 Rafale-M fighter jets from France for the Indian Navy, official sources confirmed.

The contract is expected to be concluded later this month. It includes 22 single-seater jets that can operate from aircraft carriers and four twin-seater trainer jets, which are not carrier-compatible.

The CCS approval for the government-to-government deal is the final step, and the agreement now awaits formal conclusion. It is expected to be signed during the French Defence Minister's visit to India likely later this month.

Flight might: Rafale-M jets lined up on French carrier *Charles de Gaulle* during the Varuna exercise last month. DINAKAR PERI

This leaves another mega deal with France for three additional Scorpene-class conventional submarines awaiting CCS approval, before it can be finalised.

The delivery of the jets will begin three-and-a-half years after the contract is signed and is expected to be completed in about six-and-a-half years, official sources said. The Indian Air Force operates 36 Rafale jets, acquired under a ₹60,000-crore deal signed in September 2016.

The Indian Navy got the opportunity to witness the performance of the Rafale-M jets aboard the French aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* during the bilateral Varuna exercise last month.

On July 13, 2023, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, had accorded initial approval for the procurement of 26 Rafale-M fighters and three additional Scorpene-class diesel-electric submarines.

The Navy currently operates two aircraft carriers – *INS Vikramaditya,* which was procured from Russia, and the indigenously built *INS Vikrant,* which was commissioned in September 2022.

State sets up separate Cyber Command

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Meeting a long-standing demand, the Karnataka government has constituted a new Cyber Command, which will tackle cybercrimes, cybersecurity, misinformation and disinformation and multi-agency coordination under one umbrella. It will be headed by a Director General of Police, says the order issued on Wednesday.

These functions were split between the Karnataka State Police and E-Governance Department, hindering coordination. The move is seen as significant in the context of rising cybercrime cases in the State.

DETAILS ON » PAGE 5

The follies of a one-trick pony: Sunrisers and their freefall

With the batting struggling and the bowlers bullied into submission, it is hardly surprising that the Hyderabad outfit's energy levels have dipped. It has also been uncharacteristically sloppy on the field. Watching SRH is now a spectacle with its own mismatched grace and power. And there is no change in sight

SPORTZPICS/IPL

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

In the ever-changing world of T20 cricket, stagnation can prove suicidal.

When Sunrisers Hyderabad unveiled a new batting template last season, creating milestone after milestone en route a runner-up finish, it widened the horizons for not just franchise cricket but also the international game.

SRH's approach in the PowerPlay, in particular, was peak T20 batting on overdrive. It forced analysts to continuously recalculate what the ideal par score was.

Led by the imperious 'Travishek' (the opening duo of Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma), Sunrisers' batting might allowed it the cushion of sticking to its tactics. In fact, the franchise doubled down on firepower up top with the acquisition of Ishan Kishan in the auction last year.

During a meet-and-greet with fans ahead of the season, skipper Pat Cummins was seen signing three to the crowd – a nod to the IPL's obsession with the mythical 300-run total and SRH's gun batting order that looked all set to scale that peak. After all, the Men in Orange had exceeded expectations, posting four of the five highest totals in IPL history in their last 16 innings.

"Expectations bring some excitement," SRH head coach Daniel Vettori had confidently said ahead of the 2025 campaign.

"Whatever ground we go to, we have an understanding that the batting team is going to be aggressive," he had added.

Barely a month later, Vettori and Sunrisers have been forced to sing a different tune.

Change in approach

There is supreme confidence in laying all your cards on the table, but there is a striking vulnerability too. Opponents armed with tons and tons of data, and the Hyderabad outfit following the same script, has contributed to a stutter and a slip to the bottom of the table.

In its season-opener against Rajasthan Royals in Hyderabad, Sunrisers went berserk. Travishek returned to action with aplomb, aided by a wayward bowling show from its opponent, reinforcing the home team's strength.

The on-the-money ball for pacers in Hyderabad last year was the yorker, which yielded a scoring rate of just 6.74. RR's seamers went short with 39.56% of their deliveries and ended up being smacked for 14.66 runs per over. The score of 286 suggested that 300 was round the corner.

Lucknow Super Giants did what the Royals couldn't, proving that it was a false dawn for Sunrisers. Pant's bowlers went sharper and fuller, holding back a confident SRH, which went out looking for the 300, to a total below 200.

Super Giants' attack used the yorker from the get-go and with much success, most notably Prince Yadav's dismissal of Head when he sent the Australian's stumps flying. The Lucknow franchise gave other teams copious notes to follow.

Plan A or bust

For Sunrisers, the PowerPlay, which had characterised the team, had been child's play. Their pyrotechnics put fear in opponents and often left no time for bowlers to tweak their plans.

SRH's average run rate in that phase was 11, during which the side smashed 67 sixes (from IPL 2024 its group-stage encounter against Gujarat Titans in 2025). Both these marks remain the highest in the league during this phase.

The fearlessness has, however, come at a cost. SRH has also lost wickets in the first six overs at a much faster rate than any other franchise – 39 wickets in 20 innings, the most. In fact, since last season, Sunrisers have lost three or more wickets in the PowerPlay eight times.

In the merry run during the leap year, the Travishek phenomenon powered SRH in its quest to obliterate everything in sight. Registering 125 runs without losing a wicket in a PowerPlay (against Delhi Capitals), for example, can make life easy for the batters in the dugout and miserable for the opposition bowlers.

However, when the two have failed to set the tone, the team has fallen like a house of cards. A pair that dealt in the 100s as far as partnerships went has managed a best of just 45 this year (vs Royals). The duo only managed 15 (LSG), 11 (DC), 4 (Kolkata Knight Riders) and 9 (GT).

Vettori and the rest of the SRH staff have doggedly defended the uber-aggressive, all-or-nothing approach.

"If you look at the course of the 18 IPL seasons, there have been very few teams that haven't lost two games in a row," he said after SRH's defeat to DC in Visakhapatnam. "Particularly early in the season when teams are learning their combinations after a big auction. We don't want to be in this position, like any team, but we understand every time we play, we come up against a very good team, well-planned sides and highly talented players. There's no reason why we can't just turn up and win, we've got to perform... That's the challenge for us after a very good first performance and continue in the style we like. How we challenge ourselves to do it consistently [is important]."

Cracks in the bowling mirror

Before the season, Vettori suggested that SRH would continue to build on its batting prowess, which would then make the bowling unit's life much easier.

"That's what Pat [Cummins] addressed the bowling group the other day. He said the expectation is on the batters to do all the work, score the runs and the bowlers can sort of feed into that," he explained.

It's a statement well worth a debate. While the fireworks of the 2024 season afforded the bowling unit some immunity, SRH's current batting implosions have left the other wing exposed.

While stacked with formidable international stars and a solid attack on paper, SRH's bowling has not delivered. The inconsistency has often pushed bowlers into a shell when they were getting clobbered.

SRH has conceded runs at 10.73 per over so far, the most by a team this season, and has leaked at least 10 an over four times in five innings.

The side has come up short in managing a conservative economy rate and the all-important requirement to stifle runs in the middle overs. Sunrisers' bowlers have picked up 12 wickets in that period (overs 7 to 16) this season. In the league, their average (41.33) and economy (9.92) in this phase is the third worst.

SRH's attack, however, has long been an area of concern, sliding into the shadows due to the spotlight on the batters. Last season, it had the second-worst economy rate (after DC), and the worst average among all teams.

In Cummins, Mohammed Shami and Harshal Patel, SRH has three proven success stories who, on their day, can make it difficult for the batters. It took the Australian three games to find a way to hit those hard, almost Test-esque lengths, to contain the runs.

A blind pursuit of wickets has so far not yielded the results it should have and has often left the pace pack going for more than 10 an over. The lack of a specialist spinner and adequate faith in its ability to get purchase from the surface has cost the side. It's baffling why the tried-and-tested Adam Zampa is not getting a regular run.

With the batting failing and the bowlers bullied into submission, it is hardly surprising that Sunrisers' energy levels have dipped. The outfit has been uncharacteristically sloppy on the field.

"We just haven't been near our best in any of the last four games. I hate to say it, but all three disciplines haven't been able to click in a game. We're just not performing the way we should be," Vettori finally conceded after a seven-wicket thrashing at the hands of Titans.

Writing on the wall

The SRH of 2024 fashioned itself into a monster that loved building mountains that were hard to scale. But its chasing capabilities were nowhere as menacing, with sharp drops in comparative run rates and the number of sixes smashed.

On seemingly tough pitches, SRH has not been able to adapt. The maximums have become an obsession but what happens if one can't achieve them? Footwork, timing, placement - SRH's adept international batters suddenly blank out when it comes to looking back at the basics to keep the scoreboard ticking.

While the gameplan of outscoring opponents has fallen flat this season, the team has looked like a man trapped in an invisible revolving door. As far as adjusting to different decks and bowling tactics were concerned, Vettori admitted that the Hyderabad outfit has failed to get them right.

"We understand the ramifications of losing four in a row and how difficult it makes the season," Vettori said. "We know the style that's going to work, but we have to respect conditions and we have to assess really well. And that's probably something we haven't done as well. We also have to respect how well other teams are bowling."

The franchise is now fuelled by a projection of what people want it to be rather than what it is – one whose style, now a stuff of legend, will bequeath only memories. This is its wake, one that's being played out slowly and painfully.

Watching Sunrisers is now a spectacle with its own mismatched grace and power. And there is no change in sight.

"There are no conversations around changing our approach. We definitely want to play an aggressive brand," Vettori emphasised despite the horrid run.

Live by the sword, die by it. Admirable? Full of folly? The table will tell the tale.

THE GIST

- For Sunrisers, the PowerPlay, which had characterised the team, had been child's play. Their pyrotechnics put fear in opponents and often left no time for bowlers to tweak their plans
- On seemingly tough pitches, SRH has not been able to adapt. The side's adept international batters suddenly blank out when it comes to looking back at the basics
- Live by the sword, die by it. Admirable? Full of folly? The table will tell the tale

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ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಅಶ್ವಿನಿ
ಪುನೀತ್ ರಾಜಕುಮಾರ್ ರವರು
ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಪಕರು

ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಕಾಶ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ವಿಕಾಶ್ ರವರು
Addl.Commissioner of Police (West)

ಆರ್.ಪಿ. ರವಿಶಂಕರ್ ರವರು
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು : ಆರ್ಯವೈಶ್ಯ
ಮಹಾಸಭಾ (ಮಲ್ಲೇಶ್ವರಂ)

ಶ್ರೀ ಸತ್ಯನಾರಾಯಣ ರವರು
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ಬಿಗ್ ಬಾಸ್ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಿ

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Cheque bounce case: Nagendra convicted

Press Trust of India
BENGALURU

A court here has convicted former Karnataka Minister B. Nagendra in a cheque bounce case and imposed a fine of ₹1.25 crore.

The 42nd Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate, K.N. Shivakumar has ordered Nagendra and two others to pay the fine, failing which they will face a one-year jail term.

The case stems from a financial dispute dating back to 2013 between VSL Steels Ltd. and BC Infrastructure and Resources Company – a firm jointly owned by Nagendra and Anil Rajashekar Chundur Bhaskar. The court had earlier ruled that the firm owed ₹2.53 crore to VSL Steels. As part of the settlement, a cheque for ₹1 crore was issued. However, when the cheque bounced in 2022, VSL Steels Ltd. initiated legal proceedings.

ATM targeted

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

In a daring heist on Wednesday morning, robbers broke into the State Bank of India ATM kiosk at Ramanagar in Kalaburagi, cut open the machine, and stole ₹18 lakh.

The ATM was loaded with cash around 6 p.m. on Tuesday and the robbery took place the following morning, the police said.

Operation Nanhe Farishte: Over 580 children rescued

Of the total rescued by Railway Protection Force, 480 were boys and 103 were girls

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

In a step towards protecting vulnerable children, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) under the South Western Railway (SWR) zone has rescued 583 children over the last year (April 2024 to March 2025) as part of its dedicated child rescue initiative, 'Operation Nanhe Farishte'.

According to the data accessed by *The Hindu*, of the total rescued, 480 children were boys and 103 were girls, who were either reunited with their families or placed in institutional care through appropriate government channels.

Launched in July 2017 by D.B. Kasar, Chief Security Commissioner of the RPF in the SWR, Operation Nanhe Farishte – which translates to Little Angels – has been actively identifying and rescuing children found in distress or suspicious circumstances at railway stations and onboard trains.

The initiative specifically aims to prevent children from being trafficked into cities for child labour or other forms of exploitation.

Operation Nanhe Farishte has been actively identifying and rescuing children found in distress or in suspicious circumstances at railway stations and trains. FILE PHOTO

No case of trafficking

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Manjunath Kanmadi, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of South Western Railway, said that although hundreds of children have been rescued in the last year, "no case of trafficking has been registered by the RPF in the past three years" within the SWR zone. However, officials said the operation continues to play a crucial role in safeguarding children before harm can occur.

According to guidelines issued by the Railway Board, RPF personnel are trained to look for children found loitering or stranded at platforms, in trains, or on other railway premises.

"If found under suspicious circumstances, the child is brought to the RPF office, and an enquiry is initiated to determine the nature of their situation – whether they are runaways, destitute, mentally challenged, missing, kidnapped, drug addicts, or possible victims of child labour," Mr. Kanmadi explained.

RPF as first responder

Once identified, rescued children are handed over to their parents through registered NGOs or produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) of the Department of Women and Child Welfare, Karnataka. "They are first brought to a helpdesk, given food, rest, medical check-up and counselling, before being placed in safe custody," Mr. Kanmadi added.

Despite its efforts, the RPF's powers are limited when it comes to addressing trafficking. It does not have legal authority under The Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956, to arrest suspected traffickers. "We act as first responders. Our role is to secure the child and initiate the process," said another official.

Official said the RPF is empowered under the Railway Property (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1966, to take action in cases involving unlawful possession of railway property.

However, child protection remains a collaborative effort involving multiple agencies and civil society.

"Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been instrumental in supporting the RPF. They assist in identifying vulnerable children, conducting preliminary enquiries, and training and sensitising RPF personnel and the public," the official added.

Official further said that the public are encouraged to stay alert and report any suspicious movement of children at railway stations by calling the security helpline 182, Childline at 1098, or the police helpline 100.

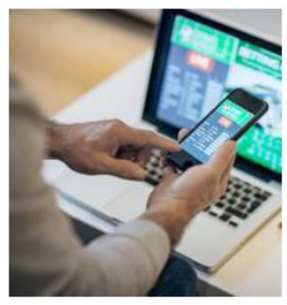
State explores legal framework to regulate online gaming

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In response to the growing surge in online betting and gaming activities, the Karnataka government is working on establishing a legal framework to regulate the sector. A high-level meeting was convened on Tuesday to deliberate on this matter.

High-level meeting

The meeting, chaired by Home Minister G. Parameshwara and IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge, included participation from senior officials, representatives from online gaming associations, and industry specialists. The discussions centred around introducing clear guidelines to address the issues arising from online gambling and betting, according to Mr. Kharge.



The proposed legislation aims to curb online gambling and games of chance while safeguarding users from financial exploitation and fraud.

Mr. Kharge said the proposed legislation aims to curb online gambling and games of chance while safeguarding users from financial exploitation and fraud. He emphasised the need for robust legal mechanisms to distinguish between gambling and games that rely on skill.

Karnataka is reportedly considering adopting a model similar to that of Chhattisgarh, which allows skill-based gaming while prohibiting betting and games of luck.

Officials said the objective is to strike a balance between consumer protection and fostering a legitimate online gaming industry.

"The proposed framework is likely to be presented in the coming months, which is Karnataka's push towards responsible and regulated digital gaming," a senior official who was present in the meeting said.

Police step up vigilance during IPL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the ongoing Indian Premier League matches drawing massive public attention, the Bengaluru police have intensified surveillance to curb illegal betting activities in the city. Officers are keeping a close watch both online and on the ground, especially around the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, to prevent betting rackets from taking advantage of the cricket frenzy.

Banned in Karnataka

According to the police, offline betting is banned in Karnataka under the Karnataka Police Act. However, illegal online betting continues to be a grey area, with many unregulated platforms and mobile applications luring users into wagering on match outcomes.

"We are taking strict action against those involved in both offline and online betting," a senior official from the Central Crime Branch (CEN) police said. "Our main concern is with unregistered gaming and betting apps. We are creating awareness among the public and advising social media influencers not to promote these platforms."

The police have also roped in cybercrime and CCB units to investigate the rise in digital betting platforms and closely monitor suspicious applications. Online betting apps pose a significant threat, especially to youth, who are drawn in by promises of quick money. "With little to no regulation, users often end up losing large sums, sometimes falling into debt. These apps operate without accountability, making it difficult for victims to recover lost funds. Such platforms can also be a gateway to more serious forms of financial fraud and addiction," official added.

HC notice to DRI on Ranya Rao's plea seeking release on bail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered issue of notice to the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on a petition filed by actor Harshavardini Ranya Rao seeking release on bail in the gold smuggling case.

Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty, before whom the petition came up for hearing, has adjourned further hearing on the petition till Aptil 17 while asking the DRI to file its statement of objections by then.

She was arrested on March 3 at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru after it was found that she was carrying about 14 kg of gold bars illegally as she had failed to declare the gold bars in her possession at the customs desk in the airport.

Ranya Rao

Earlier bail pleas

Her bail petitions were rejected both by the metropolitan magistrate court as well as the sessions court.

In its March 27 order, the sessions court had found no procedural illegality in arresting her by the DRI officials.

Even though the offences alleged does not carry life and death sentence, the sessions court declined to enlarge her on bail by pointing out that it is a serious offence impacting country's economy.

The sessions court had also noted that enlarging her on bail could impact investigations underway as the DRI had alleged that she and another accused had indulged in Hawala transactions.

'Failure to manage aircraft path led to runway contact'

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

The final investigation report of the abnormal runway contact incident involving a Trujet aircraft at the Mysuru airport in 2020 states that the probable cause of the incident was failure to manage the aircraft vertical path and improper Crew Resource Management (CRM) performance.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) report states: "Failure to manage the aircraft vertical path and improper CRM performance together with the loss of situational awareness and delayed go around action was the probable cause of the incident."

It further added that prevailed weather conditions was a contributory factor and ruled out aircraft serviceability as a factor.

According to the report, due to bad weather at Mysuru, the crew diverted the flight to Chennai airport, which is the first alternative airport. FILE PHOTO

How events unfolded

On November 16, 2020 a Trujet ATR 72 aircraft from Belagavi with 52 people on board was scheduled to land at the Mysuru airport. Just before executing a go-around, the crew felt that their aircraft had touched ground and simultaneously go-around action was performed. According to the report, due to bad weather at Mysuru, the crew diverted the flight to Chennai airport, which is the first alternative airport. During the flight from Mysuru to Chennai, the landing gear was in extended condition, as the crew could not retract it.

The DGCA report states the crew failed to utilise CRM techniques to work together during the approach and landing phases at Mysuru, adding that prevailed weather conditions were a contributory factor

"The aircraft landed safely at Chennai airport. But, during the landing roll, crew observed right wing was lower than left wing. Hence, the aircraft was stopped on the runway itself and requested Chennai ATC for assistance. All the passengers were disembarked normally on the runway and the aircraft was towed to a bay," the report states.

No one injured

No passenger was injured in the incident.

The report further stated that the crew failed to utilise CRM techniques to work together during the approach and landing phases at Mysuru in monitoring and communication, situational awareness, decision-making and teamwork.

II PU: Gritty students from migrant labour camp make it big

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Geetha N. and Ganesh M., both students from a migrant labour camp located on the outskirts of Shivamogga city, have cleared the II PU examination in the Commerce stream with good scores. While Geetha secured 507 marks, Ganesh scored 403. They are among the first few children from the camp to study up to the pre-university level.

Their achievement stands unique for many reasons, including their background and the camp they have been living in. Their parents are illiterate and have no regular income. They studied under the streetlights near the camp, which had no power supply.

Geetha, the daughter of Nagaraj and Manjamma, secured 99 out of 100 in Kannada and 74 in English. She cleared the exam by securing 81%, making history in the camp. Her father, Mr. Nagaraj, repairs home appliances. With no fixed income, the parents took loans from microfinance firms, and are finding it difficult to clear dues.

(Clockwise from top) Geetha N. and Ganesh M.; View of the migrant labour camp in Shivamogga. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ganesh, whose father died a few years ago, missed classes for three months, as he went to work for a food caterer to support his family of four. His mother, Parvathi, sells decorative items in villages. He returned to college only after the teachers and social activists of Shivamogga, who have been supporting the children in the camp, insisted that he continue his studies. He succeeded in clearing the exams with a first class, 60%. "Had he been regular to the classes, he would have secured higher marks. He is good at studies and is one of the bright children in the camp," said T.L. Rekhamba, writer and social activist, who has been helping children's education in the camp.

Both students want to study B.Com in Sahyadri College of Management, a government college of Kuvempu University in Shivamogga, and prepare for competitive exams. More than 60 families of migrant tribal communities, including Sudagadu Sidda, Duraga Muragi, Shillekyata, and Sindhola, have settled in the vacant land belonging to Kuvempu University adjacent to the university's city office for over three decades. The elders in the family go out to earn by working in different sectors. Women sell utensils, bangles and necklaces, and collect hair. A few men continue with the traditional job of fortune-telling. Recently, youth have taken up construction work. The elders recall that they moved to Shivamogga from Chikkamagaluru 30 years ago. They live in tents built with wooden poles and covered by cloth and plastic sheets. The families get their drinking water supply from the urban local body. However, there is no power supply, and there are no toilets.

George Saldanha, a social activist of Shivamogga, has been working for the welfare of the tribal people. Every day, he conducts evening classes for the students in the camp. He makes the children sit on the premises of Devaraj Urs Bhavan, a government building close to the camp, where the bright streetlights help the students study. With the help of philanthropists in the city, Mr. Saldanha helps the children get seats in schools and colleges, and also get them study material.

"We got free seats in DVS College in Shivamogga for PUC because of Mr. Saldanha's efforts. He has been helping us a lot," said Ms. Geetha. The students and parents are thankful to the administration of DVS College and philanthropists for their support.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Mr. Chenchu Reddy Tadi now resident of USA** being a owner of schedule Property, who has lost one of the Sale Deed being dated **30.08.2005** registered as document no. **ANK-1-07625/2005-06 Stored in CD No. ANKD 76** registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Anekal, Bangalore.

My client is informed that the aforesaid Sale Deed was lost in the Transit and hence an online complaint was filed with the police as per endorsement dated 07.04.2025 bearing No.1555044/2025.

My client selling Schedule Property to Mrs. Sumangala M S by creating a charge by borrowing a housing loan from State Bank of India & hence any person, individuals, financial institutions or body corporate whosoever having any claims, interest, or charge, etc., in whatsoever manner over the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to lodge their claims or objections, if any, with supporting documents thereon with the undersigned in person **within seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this general public notice, failing which my clients will presume that the Schedule Property herein is free from all sorts of encumbrance of whatsoever nature and proceed to complete the sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential vacant site **bearing no. 29** now bearing V P Khatha no. 284/29, E-Swathu Khatha No. 150020010040020290, measuring East to West: 40 ft and North to South: 30 ft **totally measuring 1200 sq ft** formed in survey no. 90/P33, situated at **Kallubalu Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** has been converted into Non-Agriculture Residential purpose by the Asst. Commissioner, Bangalore Sub-Division, Bangalore, vide order No. ALN.SR.(AJ) /152/1996-97 dated 25.04.1997 and bounded on:

East by : 9 Mtrs Road, West by : Site No. 28, North by : Site No. 20, South by : Site No. 36.

Mr. MASOOD ALI KHAN MECCI
ADVOCATES
No.23-A, Ground Floor, HHS & HMS complex,Cubbonpet main Road, BANGALORE 560 002
M : 9845548279
Email : makmecci@gmail.com

As wildfires scorch the earth, the Arctic biome rejects more carbon

A new study has found the Arctic Boreal Zone began to turn into a carbon source before 1990, and it was helped by the Eastern Siberia fires in 2003 and the Timmins wildfire in Canada in 2012. The CO2 released in those two years far exceeded the amount the zone alone was able to absorb

Arkatapa Basu

A home is engulfed during the Eaton Fire on January 8, 2025, in Altadena, California. GETTY IMAGES VIA AFP

Multiple states in the U.S. were recently in the grip of tornadoes, wildfires, and dust storms. The fires that scorched parts of Texas and Oklahoma burnt through almost 300 homes, reliving the horrors a similar blaze inflicted on Los Angeles in January this year. The fires that raged across Eaton and Palisades in particular claimed at least 28 lives, destroyed more than 14,000 structures, and forced people to evacuate *en masse*.

The inferno engulfed at least 16,000 hectares of land, destroying various natural ecosystems, per state agency Cal Fire. In fact, Cal Fire said it was among the most destructive fires in California history.

Almost a month later, across the Pacific Ocean, another wildfire swept through the forests near Ofunato City in Japan. According to media reports, the fire had started burning in the mountainous region surrounding the city on February 26. It claimed the life of at least one person, damaged close to 210 buildings, and forced more than 4,200 residents in the area to evacuate. In all, the fire covered nearly 2,900 hectares of land, rendering it one of the largest fires Japan has suffered in the last five decades.

All these fires also released large quantities of carbon into the atmosphere. According to the Copernicus Air Monitoring Service (CAMS) of the European Union, wildfires released 800,000 tonnes of carbon in January 2025 alone, and this was nearly four times the amount wildfires released in the same period a decade ago. CAMS also examined the fires' radiative power – i.e., the amount of heat they radiated, measured in watts – as recorded by NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites (which also track farm fires in India in winter). It found that this power exceeded the long-term average power between 2003 and 2024 by one order of magnitude.

Highest land temperatures

According to the latest India State of Forest Report published on December 21, 2024, Uttarakhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh recorded the most fires in that year. Uttarakhand alone recorded 5,315 forest fires between November 2022 and June 2023. However, the report also said the number of fire 'hotspots' in the country seems to be dropping: from 2.23 lakh in 2021-2022 and 2.12 lakh in 2022-2023 to 2.03 lakh in 2023-2024.

At the same time, India has been experiencing some of its highest land temperatures in recent years. In 2023, researchers at IIT-Kharagpur and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, reported that in India's northwest, northeast, and central regions, land temperature is rising 0.1°-0.3° C per decade in the pre-monsoon season and 0.2°–0.4° C per decade in the post-monsoon season.

Heat waves have also been found to be occurring earlier in the year, moving slower, and lasting longer. Together with prolonged dry spells, they create conditions ripe for wildfires. Suryaprabha Sadasivan, senior vice-president of consulting firm Chase India, wrote in *The Hindu* on February 12 that forest fires in India emit around 69 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year.

The intensity and frequency of wildfires raise the question: are the earth's natural carbon sinks able to absorb all the carbon being emitted?

The Arctic carbon sink

The planet's oceans, forests, and soil are well-known carbon sinks. The Arctic Boreal Zone (ABZ) is a particularly important one: for many centuries now, its tundra, coniferous forests, and wetlands around the Arctic Circle have absorbed carbon and sequestered it in the zone's permafrost. Its coniferous forest is the world's largest land-based biome.

But according to a new study published in *Nature Climate Change*, the increasing ferocity of wildfires means that more than 30% of the ABZ has now stopped capturing carbon and is instead releasing it.

In the study, an international team of researchers analysed data from 200 monitoring sites worldwide between 1990 and 2020 and tracked year-round changes in the atmospheric concentration of carbon. Their analysis found that while the ABZ was actively absorbing carbon from the atmosphere from 2001-2020, fully one-third of the region has been releasing carbon dioxide since.

"While we found many northern ecosystems are still acting as carbon dioxide sinks, source regions and fires are now cancelling out much of that net uptake and reversing long-standing trends," Anna Virkkala, a research scientist at Woodwell Climate Research Center in the US and an author of the study, said in a statement.

Wildfires released large quantities of carbon into the atmosphere. According to the EU, wildfires released 800,000 tonnes of carbon in January 2025 alone, four times the amount such fires released a decade ago

The researchers were also able to specify the areas in the ABZ that had become carbon sources: while Alaska accounted for 44% of the 'new' emissions, northern Europe and Siberia accounted for 25% and 13%, respectively. The study paper also stated that the carbon emissions from the longer, non-summer months in the ABZ had surpassed the amount of carbon dioxide absorbed during the summer months (June to August).

Carbon sink to source

Finally, the team was able to estimate that the ABZ first began to transform from a carbon sink to a carbon source before 1990 and it was helped along by the Eastern Siberia fires in Russia in 2003 and the Timmins wildfire in Canada in 2012. According to the paper, the carbon dioxide released in these two years far exceeded the amount the ABZ alone was able to absorb.

One important reason for the ABZ releasing more carbon dioxide than what it can absorb is the thawing of tundra permafrost. As global warming – whose effects have been more pronounced in cooler regions – dries out the soil and changes the type of plants that grow, the average temperature of the top soil rises and organic materials in the soil decompose, releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

The consequences of these changes creates a dangerous feedback loop. According to the study, as wildfires become more common and more intense, they burn through the natural carbon reservoirs that have historically helped regulate the earth's climate. The carbon released from these fires further fuels global warming, which in turn creates conditions for more frequent and more intense wildfires. And so on.

The study also corroborated the findings of the 2024 Arctic Report Card issued by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This document stated that frequent wildfires are turning the Arctic tundra into a source of carbon by forcing it to absorb record levels of pollution due to burning fossil fuels.

Alaska Biological Research senior scientist Gerald Frost, who also co-authored the Arctic Report Card, told the NOAA, "Many of the Arctic's vital signs that we track are either setting or flirting with record-high or record-low values nearly every year. This is an indication that recent extreme years are the result of long-term, persistent changes, and not the result of variability in the climate system."

arkatapa.basu@thehindu.co.in

Splashing is an important physical phenomenon, and understanding it is key to improving many industrial processes. PIXABAY

Charged water makes a smaller splash

Vasudevan Mukunth

When a drop of water falls on a glass top, there's a splash.

As the bead strikes the glass, its momentum, until then moving downward, is transferred in a horizontal direction. This sudden redistribution of energy causes a sheet of the liquid, called a lamella, to peel off from the drop. It's lifted up from the surface by a thin layer of gas between the sheet and the glass and by a difference in pressure acting on the sheet's top and bottom sides. This lift causes the lamella to break up into droplets, creating a splash.

Scientists study this splash in detail because, in the words of a 2014 paper in *Physical Review Letters*, it's present in several "technological and scientific fields [including] ink-jet printing, combustion, and surface coating."

A disorderly splash can create unwanted effects in these processes. For example, ink deposited on a sheet of paper by a printer could create a smudge. Sometimes splashing is also beneficial. In a coal power plant, the feedwater entering the boiler could accumulate dissolved carbon dioxide, which needs to be removed or it could corrode the boiler vessel. To do this, cold feedwater is first splashed on a surface. The splash produces droplets that are collected in a vessel, through which steam from a turbine is passed. As the feedwater heats up, it releases its dissolved carbon dioxide, which is blown through a vent. Then the feedwater enters the boiler.

When the charged drop hit the surface, a lamella was formed – but it didn't lift. In the end, the splash was much smaller. Beyond a particular charge, the drop made no splash at all

Splashing is an important physical phenomenon and understanding it is key to improving many industrial processes. That way, they may even be able to eliminate splashing altogether. A new study from researchers from China, Germany, Hong Kong, and Switzerland has reported just this.

According to the group, splashing can be prevented altogether if a water drop falling on a hard surface is electrically charged. The findings were published in *Physical Review Letters* on April 1.

The team's experiment was simple. A syringe needle releases water drops to a glass surface half to two feet below. On the way, the droplet passes through a copper hoop. The hoop and the needle are connected in an electrical circuit. When the drop passes through the hoop, it becomes electrically charged.

Video recordings revealed that when the charged drop hit the surface a lamella was formed – but it didn't lift. The charges on the lamella pulled it towards the surface and kept it from spreading out. In the end, the splash was much smaller. The researchers found that beyond a particular charge, created by tuning the electric field inside the hoop, the drop made no splash at all.

They also found the effect only happens when the drop falls on an insulating surface. An electrically conducting surface would take away the charge, leaving the drop to make a splash. "Our results ... highlight the potential of controlling splashing by manipulating drop charges," the researchers wrote in their paper.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Beware paradoxes, signs that something is not quite right...

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

There is a large number of massive, young stars around the Milky Way's central black hole, which is surprising because the black hole's influence should have prevented their births. What is this paradox called?

QUESTION 2

While Ernst Mach addressed this question in 1883, it became popular in 1985. This year, X asked: If an S-shaped sprinkler turns in the direction opposite to the one in which it squirts water, which way would it turn if it was completely submerged in a pool and made to suck in water? Name X, considered one of the world's most popular physicists.

QUESTION 3

In 1830 or so, Michael Faraday found that dilute Y corroded steel whereas concentrated Y did not. Faraday's attempts to explain this paradox advanced the field of electrochemistry. Name Y.

QUESTION 4

The fact that logical reasoning requires lower computational resources than sensory processing is called _____'s paradox. The scientist for whom it is named wrote in 1988: "it is comparatively easy to make computers exhibit adult level performance on intelligence tests … and difficult to give them the skills of a one-year-old when it comes to perception and mobility". Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 5

What's the colloquial term for a sudden period of wakefulness in a sleep-deprived person? Despite its paradoxical nature, it's caused by the circadian rhythms entering a period of wakefulness even though the body hasn't slept.

Answers to April 8 quiz:

1. Features of light caused by the moon's surface – **Ans: Baily's beads**
2. Lunar attribute that creates 'eclipse seasons' – **Ans: Axial parallelism**
3. Rough sizes of the sun and the moon in the sky – **Ans: 0.5°**
4. Circular orbits will lead to a solar eclipse on this day – **Ans: New moon**
5. Another term for eclipse chasers – **Ans: Umbraphiles**

First contact: Joe V.R. | K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Vaishnavi Jibbanwad | Anmol Agrawal

Visual: Name this insect. According to Denny's paradox, which was later refuted, this insect shouldn't be able to walk on water the way it does. CREDIT: AFROBRAZILIAN

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

After 11 years, BWSSB announces increase in water tariff

Currently, BWSSB faces a monthly deficit of ₹70 crore, spending ₹200 cr. and collecting ₹130 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a gap of 11 years, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has announced a revision in water tariffs. The increase, effective from the next billing cycle, will be formally notified on Thursday. The decision aims at balancing rising operational costs without placing a heavy burden on consumers, BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar said on Wednesday.

Domestic users will now see incremental charges based on usage brackets, starting at 0.15 paisa per litre for up to 8,000 litres and peaking at one paisa for usage above one lakh litres. A similar slab-based system has been introduced for domestic-HR (high-rise) users, replacing the previous bulk charge format. Users in this category consuming up to 2 lakh litres will be charged 0.30 paisa, gradually scaling to 1 paisa per litres for higher brackets.

Non-domestic rates have also undergone a revision, beginning at 0.90 paisa per litre for industrial and bulk supply and ranging up to 1.90 paisa based on volume.

Notably, partial non-domestic connections will now be assessed on a slab-wise, pro-rata basis, with a minimum 25% usage requirement for non-domestic classification.

Currently, BWSSB faces a monthly deficit of ₹70 crore, spending ₹200 crore while collecting only ₹130 crore in revenue. With electricity and maintenance costs rising by 107% and 122.5% respectively over the past decade, the tariff revision was deemed inevitable, Mr. Manohar said.

Water conservation expert S. Vishwanath has welcomed the BWSSB's long-overdue decision to increase water tariffs, calling it a step in the right direction. However, he stressed the need for greater transparency from the board. He urged the BWSSB to publicly disclose its capital expenditure, operational and maintenance costs, and details of its sinking fund.

According to Mr. Vishwanath, such transparency would help citizens better understand the actual cost of the water they consume daily. He further emphasised that the BWSSB – and all water boards – should set tariffs that fully recover these costs.

Sewerage charges

In addition to water rates, sewerage charges have been raised by 25%, while sanitary charges for borewells and public sources have increased by ₹30 for domestic and ₹125 for non-domestic users. New special sanitary categories are also being introduced, signaling a broader overhaul of the utility billing framework.

Sanitary charges for borewells and public sources have increased by ₹30 for domestic and ₹125 for non-domestic users. FILE PHOTO

Proposed increase

Consumption range (Litres)	Revised rate (Paisa/litre)
Domestic category	
0 – 8,000	0.15
8,001 – 25,000	0.30
25,001 – 50,000	0.80
50,001 – 10,0000	1.00
1.01 lakh and above	1.00
Domestic HR (High-rise)	
0 – 2,00,000	0.30
2,00,001 – 5,00,000	0.60
5,00,001 – 10,00,000	1.00
10 lakh and above	1.00
Non-domestic category	
Industries/bulk supply	0.90
0 – 10,000	1.00
10,001 – 25,000	1.30
25,001 – 50,000	1.50
50,001 – 75,000	1.90
76,001 – 1 lakh	1.10
1 lakh and above	1.20

John Michael D'Cunha Commission's term extended

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The period of term of the John Michael D'Cunha Commission, which is probing the alleged irregularities in COVID-19 procurements and management in Karnataka during the previous BJP government, has been extended till July 31, 2025.

The term of the commission had ended on March 31, 2025, an official press note stated.

NATIONAL SILK EXPO
An exhibition cum sale of natural fibre silk
Silk, Cotton Saree | Designer & Ethnic Wear | Kurti | Much More
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All new wedding special collection in latest variety & new designs
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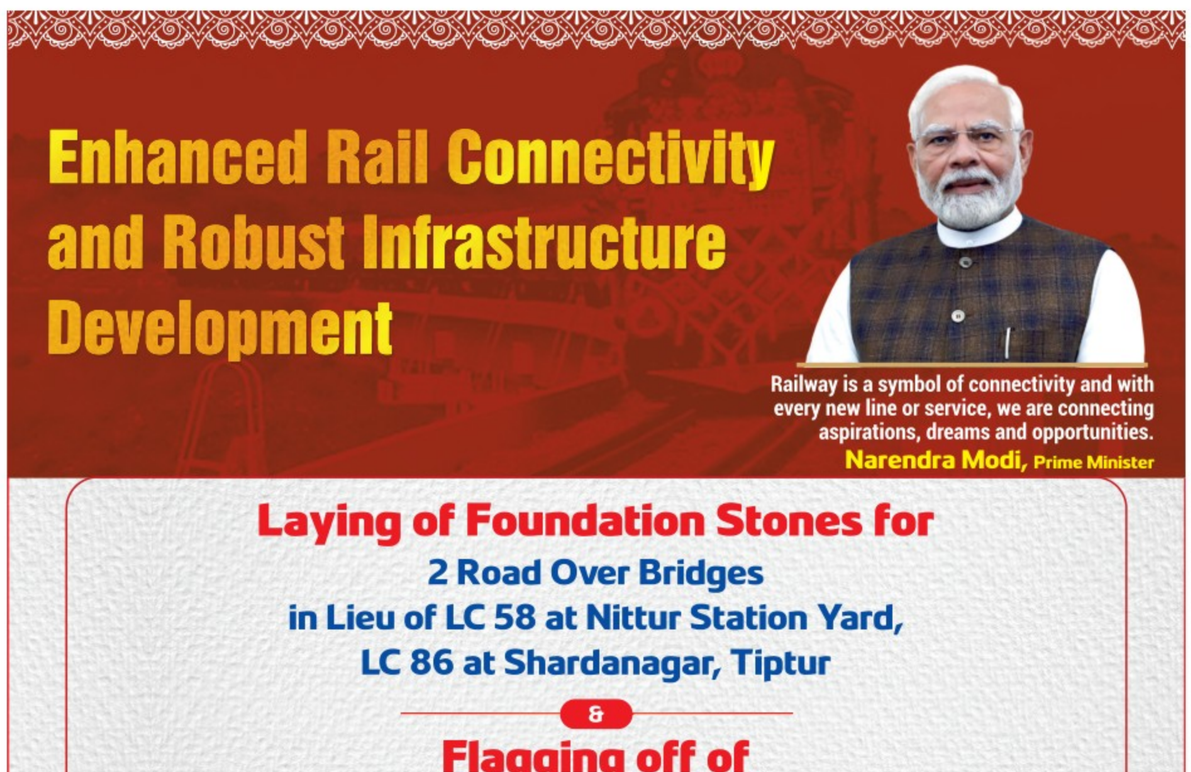
Enhanced Rail Connectivity and Robust Infrastructure Development
Railway is a symbol of connectivity and with every new line or service, we are connecting aspirations, dreams and opportunities.
Narendra Modi, Prime Minister
Laying of Foundation Stones for
2 Road Over Bridges
in Lieu of LC 58 at Nittur Station Yard,
LC 86 at Shardanagar, Tiptur
&
Flagging off of
Train No. 16240 Yesvantpur – Chikkamagaluru Express
With provision of Additional Stoppage at Nittur Railway Station
Benefits
Eliminates railway crossings, reducing the risk of accidents for both pedestrians and vehicles
Boosts local and regional connectivity, supporting economic and social development
Facilitates the smooth flow of road traffic across railway tracks in the Nittur and Tiptur regions
Better accessibility to education, healthcare and other essential services for the people of Nittur
By
V. SOMANNA
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti
Nittur Station Yard at 09:00 AM
Shardanagar, Tiptur at 10:30 AM
Nittur Railway Station at 03:30 PM
Date:10.04.2025
You are cordially invited
South Western Railway
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www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in | South Western Railway-SWR | @SWRRLY | SWRRLY | sw_railways
PUB/18/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. KIADB/CEO&EM/64/2025-26 Date:09.04.2025

"Public Notification"

Special Investment Region (SIR) Act has been enacted to establish, operate, regulate, and manage large/ Mega/ Super Mega-size Investment Regions and Industrial Areas in Karnataka. Now, Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) has been appointed as the Apex Authority to administer the notified Special Investment Region (SIR). Hence, in exercise of the powers vested as per sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Karnataka Special Investment Region Act 2022, (Karnataka Act 5 of 2023), the Government has notified some of its industrial areas as "Special Investment Region" (SIR). Further, the Government has designated KIADB as the Regional Development Authority (RDA) for these SIRs. The details of SIRs notified as on date are as follows:

1. Apparel Park 1st Phase, Apparel Park 2nd Phase, Obadenahalli (Doddaballapura 3rd Phase) Industrial Area, Adinarayana Hosahalli (Doddaballapura 4th Phase), Doddaballapura General Industrial Area Industrial Area.
2. Dobaspet 1st & 2nd Phase, Dobaspet 3rd phase (Sompura 1st & 2nd Stage), Dobaspet 4th Phase (Avverahalli), Dobaspet 5th Phase Industrial Area.
3. Bidadi 1st & 2nd Phase(Sector1 & 2) Industrial Area.
4. Kadakola, Adakanahalli, Kochanahalli, Immavu, Thandya 2nd Phase 1st stage, Thandya 2nd Phase, Thandya Industrial Area, Women's Entrepreneurs Park 1st & 2nd Phase, SUC, Film City.
5. Hebbala, Hootagalli, Belavaadi, Belagola, Koorgalli, Hebbal 2nd Phase Industrial Area, M/s BEML (SUC) Industrial Area.
6. Vasanthanarasapura 1st phase, Vasanthanarasapura 1st phase (Annexe), Vasanthanarasapura Industrial Area, Phase-2 and Vasanthanarasapura 3rd phase Industrial Area, Tumakuru.
7. Gowribidanur 1st, 2nd & 3rd Phase Industrial Area.
8. Harohalli 1st, 2nd & 3rd Phase Industrial Area.
9. Hassan Growth Centre, Growth Centre Sub-Layouts, Hassan Textile Zone, Biotechnology & Pharma Zone Hassan Taluk, Hassan District
10. Badanguppe–Kellamballi Phase-1, and Badanguppe–Kellamballi Phase-2 Industrial Area Chamarajanagara District.
11. Kadechur Industrial Area, Gurmintkal Taluk, Yadgiri District
12. Raichur Growth Centre Industrial Area, Raichur District.
13. Narasapura, Jakkasandra 1st & 2nd Phase, Bavanahalli Industrial Area.
14. Hi Tech Defence & Aerospace Park, Phase-1(Hardware Sector), Hi Tech Defence & Aerospace Park, Phase-1(IT Sector), Hi Tech Defence & Aerospace Park, Phase-1(Aerospace Sector), Hi Tech Defence & Aerospace Park, Phase-1(Aerospace SEZ Sector),
15. Naubad and Kolhar Phase-1 Industrial Area, Noubad Housing & Autonagar, Kolhar Phase-2 Industrial Areas.
16. Bommasandra 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Phase Industrial Area, Bommasandra -Jigani Link Road Industrial Area,
17. Mummigatti, Belur, Mummigatti Village, Narendra & Mummigatti Part-2 (Guggiagatti) Industrial Area.

Further, on and from the date of notification, the Regional Development Authority (KIADB) shall act as the Authority for local administration, taking decisions and steps for assessment, imposition and recovery of taxes for the said region. Accordingly, the KIADB is empowered to collect the Property Taxes in these notified Special Investment Regions with effect from 1st April 2025.

Henceforth, BBMP/Municipal Corporations/Town Municipalities/ Gram Panchayats are hereby informed that hereafter, the prevailing taxes of the Industrial units/plots within the SIR jurisdiction will be collected by KIADB and the Entrepreneurs/Allottees of the notified SIRs are hereby informed to pay the prevailing property taxes to KIADB only.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer and
Executive Member KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/183/Zen/2025-26

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount approved for the M-CADWM scheme under PMKSY

1,600 In ₹ crore. The Union Cabinet approved the Modernisation of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) as a sub-scheme of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) for the 2025-2026 period. PTI

Number of people killed in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City

26 An Israeli airstrike killed at least 26 Palestinians, including children, in a house in Shejaia in Gaza City, local health authorities said. Medics said that dozens of others were wounded in the attack that hit a multi-floor residential building in the eastern suburb of Gaza City. REUTERS

Number of textile jobs Madagascar could lose to U.S. tariffs

60 In thousand. Madagascar could lose around 60,000 textile sector jobs because of U.S. President Donald Trump's 47% tariff on the country. The formula used to calculate the latest U.S. tariffs meant that low-income countries like Madagascar faced some of the highest tax rates. REUTERS

EV charging stations approved by the Himachal government

252 The Himachal Pradesh government has approved the installation of EV charging stations at 402 strategically selected locations, which include government premises such as PWD rest houses, circuit houses, and offices of DCs and SPs, officials said on Wednesday. PTI

Number of people in South Sudan facing crisis levels of hunger

7.7 In million. These many people in South Sudan face crisis levels of hunger, the United Nations said, with many located in the country's restive northeast. The deeply impoverished nation has battled instability since its independence in 2011. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Will aviation disputes be easier to resolve?

What does the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025 entail? What is the Cape Town Convention and Protocol? Will the Bill make it easier for lessors to repossess aircraft? What has been the response from the leasing industry?

EXPLAINER

Jagriti Chandra

The story so far:

Parliament last week passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025. The proposed legislation establishes a legal framework to resolve disputes between airlines and lessors over high-value aviation assets, such as aircraft, helicopters, and engines. The legislation aims to align India's aviation laws with international standards, in order to boost investor confidence amid rapid fleet expansion by IndiGo and Air India. Once enacted, the law will streamline processes, allowing lessors to repossess aircraft for unpaid dues, avoiding lengthy court proceedings like those seen with GoFirst's 2023 shutdown. However, the industry remains worried over the lack of ease of doing business as well as complicated tax laws in the country.

What is the Bill and what are is its provisions?

The Bill implements the Cape Town Convention and Protocol, which is an international treaty adopted by the United Nations aviation watchdog, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), in 2001 and signed by India in 2008 following a Cabinet approval. The Cape Town Convention and Protocol standardises transactions involving aviation assets such as aircraft and engines, and provides remedies for creditors in cases of financial default by airlines towards the lessors they rent aircraft from.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister for Civil Aviation Ram Mohan Naidu said that the Bill will "provide a significant boost to the leasing industry, which is the need of the hour." This he said would be made possible by providing much needed legal clarity, while referring to past disputes such as those involving SpiceJet and the now defunct GoFirst, where the absence of a uniform legislation often led to challenges in interpreting the Cape Town Convention and Protocol by courts. It also led to difficulties for lessors in re-possessing their assets rented to airlines. The Minister also said that airlines have informed him that such a legislation could bring down leasing costs by 8-10%, which he claimed would offer a trickle-down advantage for passengers through lower airfares. The Minister said that the Bill has the potential to promote domestic leasing in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) City in Ahmedabad.

The Bill designates the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) as the Registry Authority for the purposes of the Convention. Such an authority is responsible for the registration and de-registration of aircraft. The Bill also empowers the DGCA to issue directions to implement the Convention. It lays down the obligations of debtors, such as airlines, which include submitting a record of dues to the DGCA. It also defines remedies available in case of a default in payment that includes the right to take back possession of the asset within a period of two calendar months or a mutually agreed upon period, whichever is earlier. The Bill will also have an overriding effect, which means that if there is any inconsistency between the Bill and any other law, the provisions of the Bill will prevail.

Why has the Bill been introduced?

The Bill was introduced to address long-standing challenges in India's aviation sector, particularly the legal uncertainties faced by international lessors and creditors.

The necessity of such a law was witnessed at the time of the closure of Kingfisher Airlines and GoFirst as well as in disputes involving SpiceJet. Despite India's accession to the Cape Town Convention in 2008, the lack of implementing legislation meant that domestic laws, such as the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), often conflicted with international standards. This led to difficulties in repossessing aircraft during airline insolvencies, as seen in the case of GoFirst (2023). These inconsistencies increased risks for lessors and lowered India's compliance score on the Aviation Working Group's (AWG) Cape Town Convention Index (previously at 50, now improved to 62, with a target of 90).

The Bill aims to resolve these issues by providing legal clarity, aligning India with global norms, and reducing the financial burden on airlines.

For instance, during the shutdown of GoFirst, which sought voluntary insolvency before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in May 2023, the court granted the airline protection under moratorium from adverse actions by lessors, lenders, airports and oil companies. This prevented the lessors from de-registering their aircraft and removing the planes from India within the permissible five-day period.

Later, they also faced challenges with respect to accessing aircraft for carrying out maintenance to ensure airworthiness, and also found themselves repaying exorbitant dues owed by the airline to airport operators for expenses incurred on counter and office space, ground and cargo handling apart from aircraft parking costs.

How has the decision been received by the leasing industry?

The Bill has been broadly welcomed by the industry as far as disputes and concerns over ability to repossess aircraft go, though some say it is like "closing the stable door after the horse has bolted," referring to the challenges posed by GoFirst, SpiceJet and Kingfisher Airways.

Executives in the international leasing industry explain that the claims promoted of reduced leasing costs as a result of the proposed law are not entirely true as the creditworthiness of an airline, its financials and volume of orders are the real driving factors, especially for airlines like Air India and IndiGo, as the industry is bullish about their growth prospects. However, smaller airlines and start-ups may benefit through a 10% rebate in interest rates offered by the EXIM bank for financing of aircraft leasing.

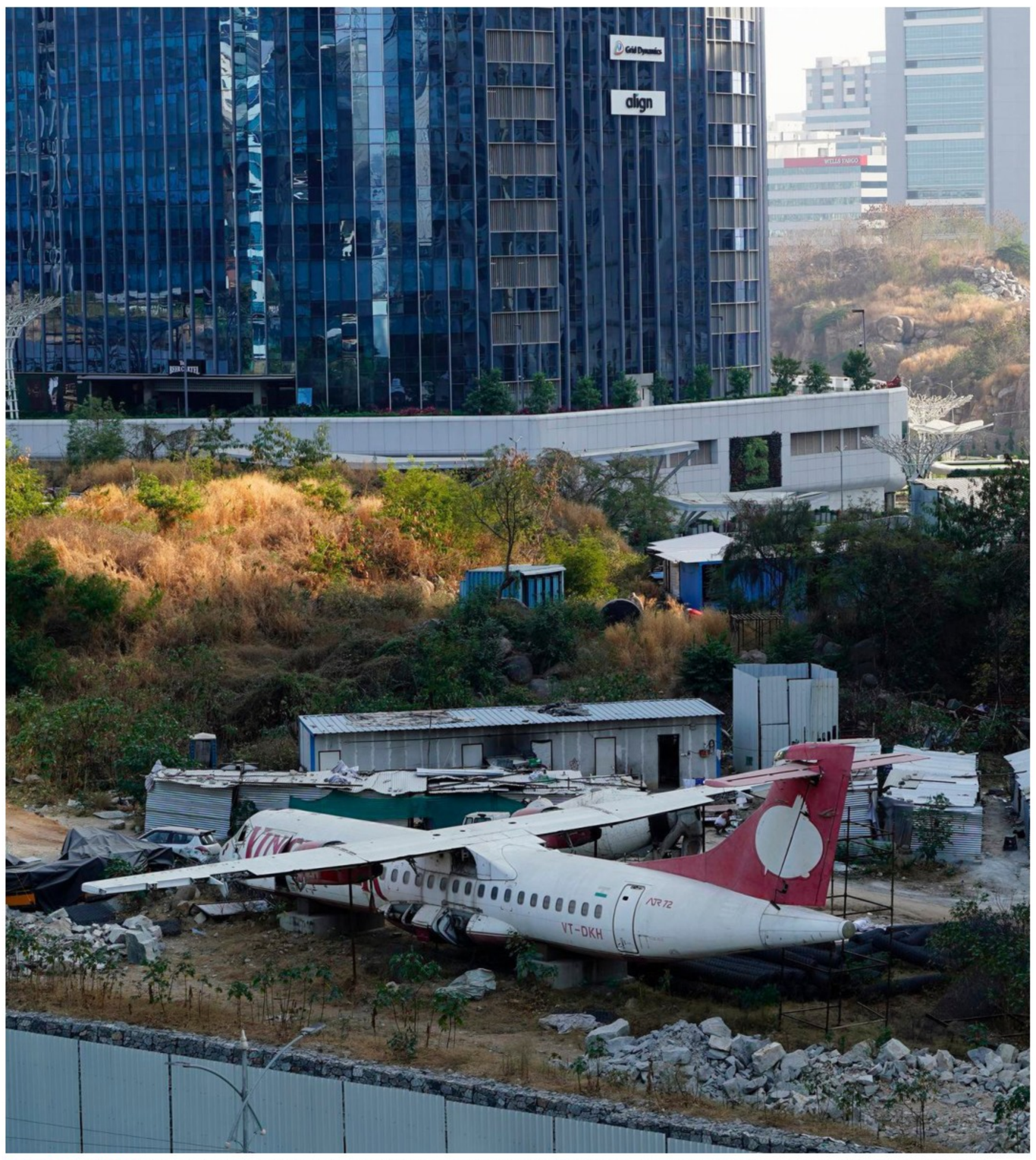
Similarly, airline executives state that claims of a likely respite in airfares are exaggerated as ticket prices are driven by market forces of demand and supply for air travel, and that costs incurred by airlines don't drive the fares.

However, the Bill will lower the risk of doing future business in India, which will impact an airline's net income.

But the industry is worried about India's complicated taxation regime. Many lessors of a large airline have been speaking in hushed tones about IT notices being slapped on them for operating through Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) to lease airplanes as they are not allowed to have a permanent establishment in India.

The industry feels the government is arm-twisting international lessors to set up a local arm at GIFT City, Gandhinagar, where the government aims to create its own ecosystem for domestic leasing.

An executive from a major leasing company, speaking anonymously, described the Indian taxation regime as "whimsical, suspicious, and inconsistent," citing these issues as key reasons for the lukewarm response from the leasing industry to GIFT City.



Complex legalities: An abandoned Kingfisher Airlines aircraft rests near Knowledge City, Serilingampally in Hyderabad on February 24. SIDDHANT THAKUR

THE GIST

- Parliament last week passed the Protection of Interests in Aircraft Objects Bill, 2025. The proposed legislation establishes a legal framework to resolve disputes between airlines and lessors over high-value aviation assets, such as aircraft, helicopters, and engines.
- The Bill was introduced to address long-standing challenges in India's aviation sector, particularly the legal uncertainties faced by international lessors and creditors.
- Executives in the international leasing industry explain that the claims promoted of reduced leasing costs as a result of the proposed law are not entirely true as the creditworthiness of an airline, its financials and volume of orders are the real driving factors, especially for airlines like Air India and IndiGo.

TAMIL NADU TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Specification No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Name of the Work
T-2316	SE/Transmission-II	Supply of 230 KV Current Transformers
C-01/2025-26	CE/TP-II/Trichy	Providing additional Pile foundation at Kollidam river

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening,viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: **www.tantransco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1410/Tender/2025

Government of Karnataka

Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division, Davanagere

No.EE/RDWS& SD/DVG/AE-2/Tender/2025-26/36
Dated:- 05/04/2025

Short term E-Procurement Tender Notification

Tender is invited through e-procurement for **Supply Of Electrofusion Machine for HDPE PIPE Jointing in Davanagere District (12 Nos** for approved under 2025-26 –15th Finance scheme in **two** cover system by the Executive Engineer, RDWS& S Division, Davanagere on behalf the Governor of Karnataka, foreligible registered Suppliers/ Manufacturesand also registered in e-Portal cell.**Item rate Goods tender** as per standard bid documents **KG** only through e-Procurement in order to enhance the transparency in the tendering process and hence there will be no physical form of tender. Last date for submission of tenders on **Dated:19/04/2025 at 5.00 PM**. Further details can be obtained from this office Tel No:08192-262126 or through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ವಾಸಾ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/18/
ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
RWS Division, Davanagere

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
CENTRAL OFFICE: STORES & PURCHASE DEPARTMENT
K.H. ROAD, SHANTHINAGAR, BENGALURU-560 027
No: BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/ 01 /2025-26 Date: 09.04.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

B.M.T.C invites tender for procurement of the following Goods & Services through KPP Portal:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Last Date for Bid Submission in KPP Portal
		Regular Tender	
1	BMTC/2024-25/IND0116/ CALL- 2	Procurement of Different Capacities of Fire Extinguishers, Fire Buckets & Fire Stands Etc.,	02.05.2025 at 17:00 Hrs
2	BMTC/2024-25/IND0161/ CALL 2	Procurement of Lubricants for BS VI Vehicles	24.04.2025 at 15:00 Hrs
3	BMTC/2024-25/IND0166	Procurement of Gaskets	12.05.2025 at 17:00 Hrs
4	BMTC/2024-25/IND0170	Procurement of Air Filters, Fuel Filters & Oil Filters	12.05.2025 at 17:00 Hrs
5	BMTC/2024-25/IND0176	Procurement of Radium Sticker and Vinyl Sticker Sheets	02.05.2025 at 17:00 Hrs
6	BMTC/2024-25/IND0177	Printing & Supply of Public Passes	02.05.2025 at 17:00 Hrs
7	BMTC/2024-25/IND0173/ CALL-2	Plastic Felt 20 Mtrs Length x 1 Mtr width (cold applied self adhesive polymer modified bituminous composite membrane with aluminium foil at the top	02.05.2025 at 17:00 Hrs
8	BMTC/2025-26/IND0178	Procurement of Drill Bits	02.05.2025 at 17:00 Hrs
9	BMTC/2025-26/SE0825	Engaging an agency for providing IT Professionals	12.05.2025 at 17:00 Hrs
		Corrigendum: The last date & time for submission of tender in kpp-portal is extended as under.	
10	BMTC/2024-25/IND0069/ CALL-2	Procurement of Conductor Leather Cash Bag	02-05-2025 at 17:00 Hrs
11	BMTC/2024-25/IND0097/ CALL-3	Procurement of PCTR and Allied Items	12-05-2025 at 17:00 Hrs

The above mentioned tender details can be obtained from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further, any addendum/corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, other tender terms and conditions etc. will be uploaded/published through kpp portal only.
Note: Interested Bidders need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information Log on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell phone No: 080-22230960, 080-22234115, may also contact e-procurement for training on bid submission. Mail to **support@eprochelpdesk.com** for further information required.

Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES
(Tender Inviting Authority)

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Bommanahalli Project Division, HSR Layout, BDA Complex, Bengaluru-560102

No. BBMP/EE/BPD/Tend-01/2025-26 Date : 08-04-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION)
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project Division, BBMP Bengaluru-102, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, or equivalent Registration with KPWD / CPWD / BWSSB / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	Construction work of Clean drinking water plant in Annayya Reddy Layout 18th Cross Road of 28th A Main Road JP 6th Phase Puttenahalli Ward No. 187 of Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency. **Estimated Amount :** Rs. 5.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 12,500/- **Category :** ST
2	Construction work of Clean drinking water plant on Beguru Main Road of Hongasandra Ward No. 189 of Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency. **Estimated Amount :** Rs. 5.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 12,500/- **Category :** Other
3	Construction of Pipeline and Concrete Patchwork near Rajarajeshwari temple of Munisubbareddy Layout in Hongasandra Ward No. 189 of Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency. **Estimated Amount :** Rs. 15.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 37,500/- **Category :** CAT-1
4	Development of Government High School Under Ward No. 174 of HSR Layout of Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency. **Estimated Amount :** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 25,000/- **Category :** SC
5	Development work of Government Independent Pre-Graduate College under Ward No. 174 of HSR Layout of Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency. **Estimated Amount :** Rs. 10.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 25,000/- **Category :** Other
6	Digging of Pipeline in the Premises of Saibaba Temple in Shantinikethana Layout in Arakere Ward No. 193 of Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency. **Estimated Amount :** Rs. 15.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 37,500/- **Category :** Other
7	Concrete road work for development of Scheduled caste and Tribe Colony of Rotary Nagara, Kodichikkanahalli Village Bilekahalli, Bommanahalli Assembly Constituency. **Estimated Amount :** Rs. 11.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 27,500/- **Category :** CAT-11(A)

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal website : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **15-04-2025 (2)** Last date for submission of tender documents on or before **23-04-2025 at 16.00 hours. (3)** Technical Bids will be Opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in in** the Office of the Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Project Division on **24-04-2025 at 16.30 Hours** onwards.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bommanahalli Division

Govt. of Karnataka

DISTRICT OFFICE, BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE DEPARTMENT
Anegundi Road, Bejai-Kapikad, Mangalore-575004. PH:0824-2225078
Email: dobcmdakshinakannada@gmail.com

No: BCWD/VNB/CR-56/2024-25 Date: 09.04.2025

Tender is invited to provide catering services for defence forces pre-recruitment training programme center of Backward Classes Welfare Department, Government of Karnataka which is located in Dakshina Kannada, District.

For details please visit web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The last date for submission of tender is fixed on 28-04-2025, at 5.30 pm [Through e-tendering only]

(Tender inviting authority)
District Officer
Backward Classes Welfare Dept.
Dakshina Kannada, District

DIPR / MNG / 54 / MPL / 25-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2025-26/124 DATE: 07/04/2025

Short Term E-Tender Notification-1/ Corrigendum e-Tender Notification

Short term tender notification No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-1/TENDER/2024-25/6309 Dated 24/03/2025 was called. Now First time extension/Corrigendum is made to extract more bidders for the work at Sl No. 1, is as below.

Calendar of events :1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 15-04-2025 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 17-04-2025 up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 19-04-2025 at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 5)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-65/KSMCA/2025-26

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Project-East)
Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose Building, 21st Floor,
(PUB) M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.

No:EE/P-E/TEND/17/2024-25 Date: 08.04.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Executive Engineer, (Project East Division), East Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike/KPWD/ CPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Providing Emergency Relief Task Force Team to East Zonal Control Room in Ward No-167 Ashoknagara in Shanthinagara Sub Division for the year 2024-25. (2nd call) Approx. value of work : ₹ 99.97 Lakhs EMD: ₹ 1,99,940/-

Calendar of Events :(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal of the Government of Karnataka from **11.04.2025** from **4:00** pm. (2) Last date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **21.04.2025** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Date of opening of Technical Bid Tenders is on **22.04.2025** after **4:30** pm.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Project East Division

Chikmagalur Urban Development Authority
Hiremagaluru Residential Layout, First Stage, Hiremagaluru – Kadur Bypass Road, Kalyan Nagar, Chikkamagaluru - 577102
Ph:08262-295712 Website:www.chikmagalur.uda.gov.in
Email: cmr_cudackm@yahoo.in

No.: CUDA:Tender-17:2024-25 Date: 08.04.2025

e-Procurement Re-Tender Notice

Tender in two cover system is invited through e-procurement subject to conditions from eligible contractors registered in PWD for implementation of the work detailed below in the limits of Chikmagalur Urban Development Authority.

Sl.No.1. Details of Work: Development works of Park on the west side of 60' Road of Ganapathi Temple in Hiremagaluru Residential Layout of Chikmagalur Urban Development Authority. Indent No.: CKMUDA/2024-25/OW/WORK-INDENT6/CALL-2 **Amount Put to Tender /Approx. (Rs. In lakhs):** 99.90 **E.M.D. (in Rs.):** 1.69

Cost of Tender Form – As per e-procurement: *) Last date & time for submission of Tender forms in e-procurement portal 24.04.2025 up to 17.00 Hrs. *) Date & time of opening Technical Bid: 28.04.2025 up to 17.00 Hrs. *) Date & time of opening Financial Bid: 29.04.2025 up to 17.00 Hrs. *) Last date & time for submission of objections in e-portal: 22.04.2025 up to 17.00 Hrs.

Further details can be obtained during working hours of this office and from e-portal. If there are corrigendum's , they will be published only in e-portal.

Sd/-Commissioner, Sd/-Chairmen
Chikmagalur Urban Development Authority Chikmagalur

DIPR/ckm/No.01/25-26/ksmca/40

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH
(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433/333/282 TELE FAX:080-26534625/477
e-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com / pstodirectorsjicr@gmail.com

No.:SJICS&R/ACCTS/FD/2025-26 Date:09.04.2025

e-AUCTION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender in single bid system from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka for investment of surplus funds as mentioned below:

Sl No	Auction Notice No & Date	Particulars
1	SJICR/2025-26/ AUCTION-019 Dtd.09.04.2025	e-Auction for Investment of surplus funds of Rs.50.00 Crores of SJICR for One Year

The tenderers can download the documents from **https:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **10.04.2025** and the last date and time to confirm participation of interest in e-Auction is on **17.04.2025 upto 4.00 PM**

1. Date of Technical Bid Opening : **19.04.2025 at 4.00 PM**
2. EMD : **Rs.5,000/-** .
3. Live Bidding (e-Auction): commences at **10:00 AM** and concludes at **03:00 PM on 22.04.2025.**
4. For further details, please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
5. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
FINANCIAL ADVISOR.

Government of Karnataka

FOOD SAFETY AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION
PHI Compound, Sheshadri Road, Bangalore-560001.
e-mail: **cfskarnataka@gmail.com**

No: FSSD/WP/CB/16/2025-WPA Date: 09.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Food Safety and Drugs Administration, Karnataka invites e-tender from FSSAI Notified NABL Accredited Food Testing Laboratories for the purpose of carrying out Analysis of Packaged Drinking Water for Microbiological Parameters to Food Safety and Drugs Administration at Competitive prices. Interested NABL Accredited Laboratories can participate by submitting their bids. For more details, please visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Deputy Commissioner (Admin)
Food Safety and Drugs Administration, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/158/Zen/2025-26

ರಾಣಿ ಚನ್ನಮ್ಮ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
RANI CHANNAMMA UNIVERSITY
Vidyasangama, National Highway – 04, Bhootaramanahatti, Belagavi – 591156
(NAAC Accredited with B+ Grade – 2021) PM-USHA (MERU)
E-mail: registrar@rcub.ac.in **Website:** www.rcub.ac.in
aee@rcub.ac.in **Phone No.:** 0831-2565234/42
Office of the Registrar

: Press Note:

Tender Notification

The Registrar, Rani Channamma University Belagavi invites 15 days tender for the following civil works on **08.04.2025.** Desired eligible Bidder may apply before **22.04.2025 by 10.00 AM** through **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and the estimated amount and EMD amount details are as given in below table. For further information kindly visit University website **www.rcub.ac.in** or the Engineering Division at University.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Amount	EMD	Standard Document
1	Providing Breaker from Sub-station including erection of new breaker for individual use and their connections from substation to RCU, New campus Hirebagewadi, Belagavi **(RCUB/2024-25/EL/ WORK_INDENT6/CALL-2)**	**Rs.13.94 Lakhs**	**Rs. 34,600.00**	**KW-1**
2	Rewiring of Main building, administrative building, Chemistry department and quarters of RCU Main campus, Bhutaramanahatti, Belagavi **(RCUB/2025-26/EL/ WORK_INDENT10)**	**Rs.74.42 Lakhs**	**Rs. 1,48,840.00**	**KW-3**
3	Repair works to Roofing sheet and False ceiling of Main building, of RCU Main campus, Bhutaramanahatti, Belagavi **(RCUB/2025-26/BD/ WORK_INDENT9)**	**Rs.33.87 Lakhs**	**Rs. 1,48,840.00**	**KW-2**

Sd/-
The Registrar
Rani Channamma University, Belagavi

By E_Mail/e-Despatch
E_Mail ID: serwcbaripada@gmail.com
Ph.No-06792-261343/261344, *Gangraj, Baripada*

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BARIPADA
"e" Procurement Notice for Building Work

Identification No. Online Tender - Building N.C.B. No. 372 for 2024-25.
Letter No. 1655 / Date: 05.04.2025

1. Name of the work :- **Construction of 04 Nos E-Type Qtrs. R.W. Division, Udala in the District of Mayurbhanj for the year 2024-25.**
2. Total No. of work :- **01 No. (One)**
3. Estimated Cost :- **Rs. 172.85 Lakh (approximately).**
4. Eligible Class of Contractor :- **As per Annexure**
5. Period of Completion :- **As per Annexure**
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Idetification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Baripada	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Baripada	Building On-line N.C.B No.**372**	**Dt.15.04.25 at 11.00 A.M.**	**Dt.29.04.25 up to 5.00 P.M.**	**Dt.28.04.25 up to 5.00 P.M.**	**Dt.30.04.25 at 11.00 A.M.**	**Will be intimated later**

• Further details can be seen from the website: **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
• Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e_tender website only.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Baripada.

O-25 OIPR-25130/11/0027/2425

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA NIRMAN SOUDHA,
UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR, INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No.B-I-Home-24/2025- Lr. No. 14444 Dtd.04th Apr., 2025

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
Bid Identification No: C.E. (B) - 01 / 2025-26

1. Chief Engineer (Buildings-II), Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites proposals from experienced and reputed Consulting firms to provide Service of Programme Management Consultancy

Sl. No.	Name of Project	EMD	Bid Processing Fee	Period of Service
1	Selection of Programme Management Consultant (PgMC) for the work, "Construction of New Building of Odisha Bhawan at New Delhi, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi."	2,00,000/-	10,000/-	30 (Thirty) Calendar Months.

1. The bidders must participate in Online bidding only. The website for "ONLINE BIDDING" is **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
2. Bid documents will be available in the above website from **15.04.2025 to 05:00 PM of 07.05.2025** "ONLINE BIDDING"
3. The Pre-Bid queries from the bidders shall be received through e-mail on cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in on or before **dtd.24.04.2025 till 5.00 PM**
4. The Prebid meeting will be held on **dtd. 25.04.2025** in the Conference hall of Chief Engineer (Buildings), Nirman Soudha, Bhubaneswar.
5. The Prebid Clarification shall be uploaded on e-procurement portal on **dtd.28.04.2025**.
6. Last date/time for receipt of bid in web portal is **dtd. 07.05.2025**.
7. The tender will be opened on **dtd.08.05.2025 at 11:00 AM**. in the office of the E.I.C (Civil), Nirman Soudha Odisha, Bhubaneswar in the presence of the bidders, who wish to attend. Bidders who participated in the bid can witness the opening of bids after logging on to the site through their DSC. If the office happens to be closed on the scheduled date of opening, them the bid will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
8. The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III.
9. Bids submitted other than e-procurement platform shall not be considered.
10. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in.
11. The authority reserves the right to cancel any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.
12. The addendum/ corrigendum if any will be posted in the e-procurement portal only

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Buildings-II), Odisha, Bhubaneswar

B-17 OIPR-34117/11/0074/2425

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/SEE (Procurement)/EE/AEE/2025-26/1435-1439 Date: 08.04.2025

SHORT TERM- TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Manufacture and supply of following Insulators as per GESCOM Specifications: PC-1437: 11 kV, 5 kN Composite/Polymeric Pin Insulator (Tender Amount Rs: **249.90 Lakhs)** and **PC-1438:**11 kV, 45 kN Polymeric Insulator (Tender Amount Rs: **226.74 Lakhs**)
Dates: Bid documents available at KPP Portal: on or after **11.04.2025**
Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of price Bid: As per KPP Portal.
Bidder Qualifying Requirements: are as per tender documents. For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 9448499997 (SEE Procurement). Web Site Address: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement),
GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/29/KSMC&A/2025-26

(MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT)
TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL JEWARGI, District: Kalaburagi, State Karnataka
Website: www.jewargitown.mrc.gov.in, E-mail: ka.jewargi.tmc@gmail.com / itstaff_ulb_jewargi@yahoo.com Ph.: 08442-236046

No/TMCJ/SFC/2024-25 Date: 05-04-2025

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE -2

(1) Details of work/goods/service: SFC Indent no. DMA/2024-25/ SE3572/CALL-2 for the year 2024-25, (2) Estimated Amount of Work/Goods/Service/Details of Tender : **Rs. 51.27 lakhs,** (3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Agency/Supply Contractors, (4) Last date and time for submission of application for blank tender forms and filling up of Schedule-B forms: **21-04-2025 upto 12.00 noon,** (5) Tender application price and E.M.D. Amount Details: To be submitted as per e-procurement tender rules, (6) Tender Opening Date: **23-04-2025 at 5.30 PM,** (7) Details of Office Address & Telephone Number to contact for further information : Chief Officer, Municipality , Jewargi, Tel: 084442-236046, (8) E-mail Address: ka.jewargi.tmc@gmail.com / itstaff_ulb_jewargi@yahoo.com

Sd/- Chief Officer
Town Municipal Council, Jewargi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/19/KSMC&A/2025-26

KARNATAKA STATE HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
PWD Annexe Building, Project Implementation Unit, 1st Floor,
K.R. Circle, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560001

No. PIU/KSHIP-IV/IFB/2025-26/08 Dated: 09-04-2025

Tender Notification (through KPP Portal)

1. Karnataka State Highway Improvement Project [KSHIP] invites bids for "Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and providing financial advisory services for the following State Highway Road works in Packages under KSHIP-IV". Selection will be based on Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS).

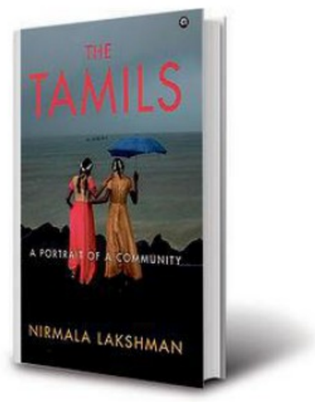
Package No.	Description	EMD (Rs in Lakhs)
Package - 1	Preparation of DPR and Financial Advisory Services for 3 State Highways roads of length 266 kms	10 Lakh
Package - 2	Preparation of DPR and Financial Advisory Services for 3 State Highways roads of length 253 kms	10 Lakh
Package - 3	Preparation of DPR and Financial Advisory Services for 2 State Highway roads of length 210 kms	10 Lakh
Package - 4	Preparation of DPR and Financial Advisory Services for 3 State Highways roads of length 186 kms	10 Lakh

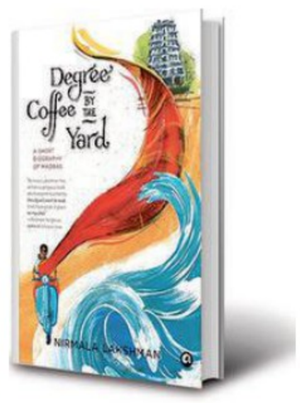
2. The Consultant shall furnish as part of its Proposal, EMD of Rs 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten lakhs only) – (1 Lakh through KPP portal and 9 Lakh in the form of BG)
3. The bid documents can be downloaded from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) of GoK.
4. Bids must be submitted online only at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) of GoK **on or before 12.05.2025 (upto 16:30 hours IST).**
5. Pre bid Queries shall be submitted **on or before 22.04.2025, 11.00 hrs**. only through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal / e-mail: piukship@gmail.com
6. Pre-bid meeting will be held **on 24.04.2025, 15.00 hrs** at KSHIP, PWD Annexe Building, Project Implementation Unit, 1st Floor, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru, Karnataka KSHIP office.
7. Technical Bids will be opened **on 14.05.2025 at 15:00 hrs.**
8. Please note, any addendum/clarification/calendar of events regarding bid document will be updated only in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) of GoK.
9. Bid submitted through any other mode shall not be entertained.
10. The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the bids without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
Project Director
KSHIP, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/169/AKAR/2025-26

BIBLIOGRAPHY





Diverse history: Badagas of Nilgiris celebrating the "Jadayaswamy" festival at the Jackkanarai village near Kotagiri in Tamil Nadu on March 10. SATHYAMOORTHY. M

How Tamil Nadu was enriched by an openness to embrace new ideas

Through 'The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community', the author has opened a window to the socio-political realities of the south, particularly Tamil Nadu. The first was with 'Degree Coffee by the Yard', which is a profile of Chennai

Ziya Us Salam

Often a lot of ignorance, and not a little distrust, marks the socio-political discourse between north and south India. Be it the history books which give expansive space to north Indian rulers, from the Mauryas and the Guptas to the Sultanate and the Mughals, or the latest delimitation exercise plans, the dice is loaded in favour of the north. Voices from the south have often attempted to correct the balance.

Nirmala Lakshman, for instance, has opened a window to the socio-political realities of the south, particularly Tamil Nadu, first with *Degree Coffee by the Yard*, and now with *The Tamils: A Portrait of a Community*.

The Tamils defies easy definition. Lakshman writes with enduring love about the geography of Tamilakam. "The ancient Tamils classified the topography of Tamilakam, their land, into five distinct categories. Each category was symbolised by a flower indigenous to that region: the kurinchi, a rare mountain bloom; mullai, the fragrant jasmine flourishing in the forests; the blue water lily of neytal, representative of the seashore; the desert flower of palai, emblematic of the arid lands; and marudam, also known as the queen's flower, of the lowlands."

Yet the book is not about geography or history alone for that matter. Yes, it is about the Pallavas, the Pandyas and the Cholas, but hers is not the work of a historian with a top-down approach. The focus is not so much on Rajaraja I or Rajendra Chola but little things that make a society a state. Like when she talks of *Shilappadikaram* and how Ilango Adigal calls Madurai an immortal city, she says, "The cities and towns of Tamil Nadu have their own histories and stories to tell. Chennai, once Madras, a sliver of sandy terrain cut out from a blue bay and bought by an impecunious English agent, Francis Day, trying to make his way into the world, is now India's fourth largest city. Madurai, the city of temples, of jasmines, the seat of Sangam congregation, written up by Megasthenes, the Greek ambassador to the Mauryan Empire, is as energetic and bustling as it was two millennia ago."

Great cities and towns

Writing about Thanjavur, she says its where Rajaraja built a magnificent temple to Brihadeeswara, more than a thousand years ago, and it was "once the capital of the glorious Cholas where history's shadows fall on stones, speaks to a culture of high art, music and dance." Cities like Coimbatore "signal a proud industrial modernity." In between are smaller towns, "scattered along the alluvial plains, in the Kaveri basin, the rice bowl of the Tamil country: Tiruchirapalli, Chidambaram, Kumbakonam."

Between the Tamil country and cities and towns, Lakshman paints a portrait of a community, and its places. At a time when a debate over languages is raging – the imposition of Hindi and the antiquity of Tamil – Lakshman's book nudges you to read. With good old journalistic tools of painstaking research, interviews, rigorous interrogation of claims of a glorious past, she presents things as they are.

Divisions and hierarchies

The rough edges of the past are not ignored. She writes of the differentiation in the Tamil Muslim community. "Social divisions are not caste hierarchies in the Tamil Muslim community. They are loose community-based structures and like in early Hindu society, based originally on professions. These divisions are flexible…Marriage between these groups is not uncommon."

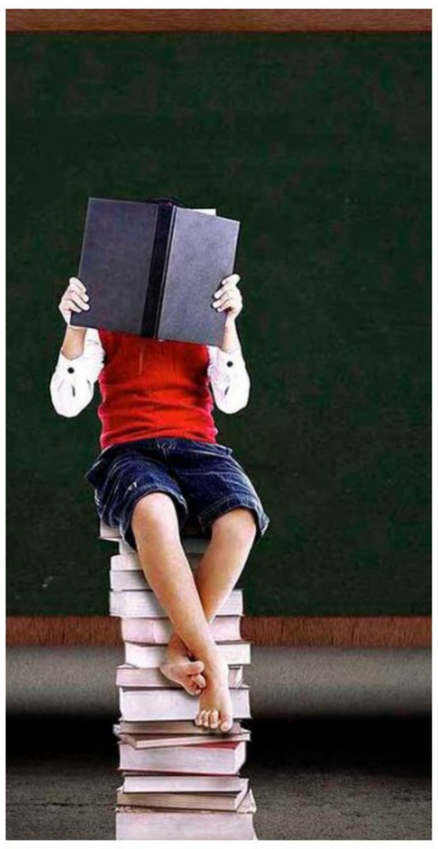
Lakshman writes about the origins of many Muslim groups. The Sha'afis follow the matrilocal system at places like Kilakkarai and Kayalpatnam, and the Marakkayars are descendants of Arab traders, and were originally boat and ship makers and ship owners. She talks about the Labbai who were of Arab descent too, but they came as helpers. "Apparently, these helpers would respond to the call of their masters with the term, 'labbaik', which translates roughly to 'here I am'." Incidentally, this is a term Muslims use when they go on the Hajj pilgrimage.

She clears the picture about the State's role in India's freedom struggle, and of Gandhi's tremendous impact. "He came to the various towns and cities in Tamil Nadu at least twelve times, and seven of his visits were to Chennai." It was in Madurai in 1921 that Gandhi resolved to abstain from a more formal way of dressing and adopt the loin cloth, that became "the image that defined him". There was, of course, more to Tamil Nadu's participation in the freedom struggle. For instance, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai's struggle for Swadeshi and the famous March 13 protest in 1908 following which he was arrested, and treated not like a political prisoner, but an ordinary criminal, yoked to the oil press in place of a bull. Or the Vedaranyam Salt March of Rajaji which mirrored the Dandi March.

Social justice

Interestingly, while it's popular to talk of social justice today, it was Tamil Nadu back in 1916 that saw the birth of the non-Brahmin movement spearheaded by T.M. Nair and P. Theagaraya Chetti. It led to the demand for proportional representation – something which politicians are demanding in 2025 through a caste survey. Periyar was to use this discontent and aspiration to usher in lasting change. Again, Lakshman opens a window to the past, letting the reader breathe in fresh air.

In many ways, *The Tamils* is *Degree Coffee by the Yard* on a bigger canvas. In that book, she talked about Chennai, writing, "Archaeological digs conducted by the British geologist Robert Bruce Foote in 1863 and 1864 in Chennai suburbs like Pallavaram and Attirampakkam revealed a hand axe (the first discovery of an Old Stone Age tool in the entire Indian subcontinent) followed by the discovery of a number of other tools of the same era, indicating the presence of people of the Stone Age. Iron Age implements found in Guindy, now very much in the heart of Chennai, also point to the antiquity of the region in which the city now stands." With this vast sweep, taking in myriad strands of what it means to be a Tamil, Lakshman's works are an eye-opener for those in the north who think, Chennai, and indeed, Tamil country, is only about idli-vada-sambar.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"What does your boss look like?"
"Well, he's thin on top and.."
"Thin on top! Does it mean he's stupid?"
"No, no. 'Thin on top" means he doesn't have much hair. He's balding. For example, I can say, 'Some people start wearing caps or hats when they start getting thin on top'."
"Movie stars wear wigs when they get thin on top."
"That's true. Most people get thin on top as they grow old."
"Like my grandmother!"
"That's right. How does she like her new chair?"
"She loves it. She tries to watch TV sitting on it. But the only problem is, she drops out to sleep everytime she…."
"….it's not 'drops out to sleep', 'drops off to sleep'. For example, last night Achala dropped off to sleep while watching TV."
"Can I say, Ramesh drops off to sleep while driving?"
"He does? That could be very dangerous."
"I know. But tell me, when should I use 'drop out' then?"
" 'Drop out' is generally used when you stop attending class or stop going to school. For example, a number of students who joined the judo class have dropped out."
"Meaning they have stopped attending classes."
"That's right."
"Our maid's daughter dropped out of school when she was only eight years old."
"That's the tragedy. It's usually the children from poor families who are forced to drop out early."
"I know. I get really upset when I…."
"..if you're going to be so thin skinned, then… "
"…'thin-skinned.' What does it mean?"
"If a person is 'thin-skinned', it means he/ she is 'easily upset or hurt'."
"He/she is sensitive."
"Exactly! For example, my friend Sumathi cries whenever somebody teases her. She is very thin-skinned."
"I guess politicians shouldn't be thin-skinned."
"They can't afford to be thin-skinned."
"I guess you're right."
Published in The Hindu on February 6, 1996.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Mohun Bagan SG and Bengaluru FC are set to face-off in this year's ISL final on Saturday. Here is a quiz on the tournament

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
Which team has played the most finals without winning a title?

QUESTION 2
Which is the most successful ISL team considering both League Shields and ISL Trophies?

QUESTION 3
Which continental tournament is the shield winner qualified to play in?

QUESTION 4
Name the first team to defend the League Shield.

QUESTION 5
Thirteen teams competed in this season's ISL. How many teams participated in the inaugural edition of the competition?

Visual question:
This team became the first team to be promoted to the ISL, establishing the competition status as India's top-tier league. Name the team and the league it was promoted from.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This airline serves more destinations non-stop from a single airport than any other airline in the world. **Ans: Turkish Airlines**
2. This is a French-Dutch multinational airline holding company, with three major brands. **Ans: Air France-KLM**
3. This is the largest airline in West Asia. **Ans: Emirates**
4. This was an Indian airline headquartered in Mumbai that operated from 1993 to 1997. **Ans: Damania Airways**
5. This is one of the oldest airlines in the world. It carries the tagline "Airways of the Americas". **Ans: Avianca**
6. The airline Aeroflot is the flag carrier of this country. **Ans: Russia**
Visual: Identify the airline. **Ans: Japan Airlines**
Early Birds: Anup| Arjun Debnath| Tom Alan Faith| Jyotsna Kaushik| Pranab Biswas

Word of the day

Derision:
contemptuous laughter; the act of deriding or treating with contempt

Synonyms: ridicule, disrespect, discourtesy

Usage: *I've learned to treat his demands with scorn and derision.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/derisionpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /dɪˈɹɪʒən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, APR. 10		
RISE	06:10	SET 18:32
RISE	16:36	SET 04:24
FRIDAY, APR. 11		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:32
RISE	17:21	SET 04:58
SATURDAY, APR. 12		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:32
RISE	18:06	SET 05:32

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	24
Mysuru	35	20
Bengaluru	34	22

Bengaluru Today
35°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

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THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

New Cyber Command headed by DGP to tackle cybercrimes, cybersecurity

Bengaluru accounts for 20% of cybercrimes registered in megacities across the country

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The State government has constituted a new Cyber Command, to be headed by a Director General of Police, a holistic unit that for the first time brings together various aspects of cyberspace – tackling cybercrimes, cybersecurity, misinformation and disinformation and multi-agency coordination – under one unit. The order was issued on Wednesday, April 9. This has been a long-standing demand for better tackling of cyber issues in the State.

To date, these functions were under various units of the Karnataka State Police and E-Governance Department, marring the State's response to increasing cyberthreats by lack of coordination.

Karnataka has recorded over 52,000 cybercrimes over the last four years, the highest among all southern States.
GETTY IMAGES

The formation of the Cyber Command under a police officer marks a paradigm shift in the State's approach to cyber issues, as earlier the e-Governance Department dominated this ecosystem.

Rising cybercrime cases
The move comes amidst rising cybercrime cases in the State.

Bengaluru accounts for 20% of all cybercrimes registered in megacities in the country and the State has recorded over 52,000 cybercrimes over the last four years, the highest among all southern States.

There have also been rising instances of cyberattacks on the State's critical infrastructure, for instance, a recent DDoS attack on Kaveri 2.0 crippled property transactions for days, leading to huge losses to the State's exchequer.

Unified Command
Even as all the 45 cybercrime police stations in the State will henceforth report to DGP (Cyber Command), the officer will also double up as the Chief Information Security Officer of Karnataka, for the first time bringing cybercrimes and cybersecurity under one unit. The officers will also be members of the Home Minister-chaired Special Empowered Committee to oversee cybercrime prevention and handle cybercrimes and the Multi-Department Coordination Committee to tackle misinformation and disinformation. Thus the new set-up brings all security-related aspects of online activities in the State under one unit and a senior DGP rank officer.

DGP (Cybercrimes and Narcotics), Criminal Investigation Department (CID) will be the new DGP (Cyber Command) and the unit will function with the available resources in CID. Pronab Mohanty, who is presently posted as DGP (Cybercrimes and Narcotics) will take over as DGP (Cyber Command).

Keeping in mind the multi-agency nature of cyber issues in the State, DGP (Cyber Command) will report to the Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department and not the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP), Karnataka State Police.

Will DG&IGP Alok Mohan get an extension to ensure a two-year tenure?

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

In the normal course, Alok Mohan, the incumbent Director General and Inspector General (DG&IGP), Karnataka State Police, would retire on April 30 as he completes 60 years on April 18. However, the corridors of power are abuzz that he may get an extension till August 5 to give him a two-year tenure as per guidelines by the Supreme Court in the famous Prakash Singh case that led to police reforms in the country. He was appointed as DG&IGP on August 5, 2023.

While there have been no formal orders to this effect yet, Mr. Mohan has scheduled multiple meetings in May, including a performance review of Superintendents of Police of districts for May 3, indicating an extension. While some sources claimed that the State government has to write to the Union government, and an extension has to be approved, a senior official said that the extension to enable him to get a tenure of two years was deemed and a new order was not necessary.

Sources that argue the extension is deemed and no separate order and approval from the Union government is needed, point to a reply by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the issue in the recently concluded Karnataka Legislature session on March 26, a copy of which *The Hindu* has accessed. Responding to a question raised by BJP MLA C.N. Ashwath Narayan, as to why the State government had not named Mr. Mohan among officers retiring soon in a notification issued in July last year, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the Supreme Court in WP 310/1996 (known as the Prakash Singh case), has said that the Head of Police Force should get a minimum of two years tenure and in light of this judgement, Mr. Mohan had been appointed as DG&IGP, Karnataka State Police on August 5, 2023, till further orders.

Sources said the confusion continues as in an attempt to overcome the two years tenure, a Karnataka Police (Amendment) Bill, 2012, was brought, which said DG&IGP should get a minimum tenure of two years, "subject to superannuation". While this continues to stay in the books to this day, the State government reportedly gave an affidavit in 2019-20 to the SC that it would implement guidelines in the Prakash Singh judgement. After this affidavit, Neelmani N. Raju and Praveen Sood, who headed the State's police force had over two years service before retirement and the question of extension did not arise. Now that Mr. Mohan is set to retire before a two year tenure, this question has for the first time come to the forefront.

From Page One

Activist petitions Gehlot for prosecution of Chief Minister

Mr. Ramamurthy has alleged that the decision of "deemed extension" instead of auction process under the MMDR Act, 2015, resulted in a revenue loss of about ₹5,000 crore to the exchequer and a kickback of about ₹500 crore.

The petitioner said the approval came despite outstanding royalty and dues by the companies, and 108 applications seeking extension; and the government selectively approved only eight.

However, the Chief Minister dismissed the allegations stating that neither has there been any loss to the exchequer nor iron ore had been mined in the area.

"The government provided a conditional extension to the companies to secure forest clearances as per the MMDR Act, 1957. However, after the Centre amended the MMDR Act in January 2015 through an ordinance, directions were given to cancel the conditional extension given to eight companies."

He said later the deemed extension of one company was cancelled based on a Supreme Court order while the conditional deemed extension was given to seven companies based on the final report of CBI, SIT and other agencies.

Of the seven companies, the deemed extension was cancelled for two, for not providing documents.

Among the remaining five, the BJP government gave mining rights to three companies during 2020-21 while mining rights were given to two companies during 2016 and 2018.

"The issue has been raised in the legislature in the past and current Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy held a press conference in January 2018. Cases that had been filed by opposition leaders and some individuals haven closed on the grounds that they were baseless."

Meanwhile, government sources said they were expecting the Governor to seek clarifications and documents from the Chief Secretary on lines similar to that of what he did in the alleged scam in the allotment of an alternative site by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to B.M. Parvathi, wife of Mr. Siddaramaiah.

The Governor had accorded prosecution sanction in the MUDA case in August 2024. Raj Bhavan sources said the Governor has not taken any decision yet on the mining case.

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
REVENUE DEPARTMENT
Survey Settlement and Land Records Department
and all Employees Associations of the Department
36th
NATIONAL SURVEY DAY CELEBRATION

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

National Survey Day is being celebrated to commemorate the start of systematic survey operations through topographical mapping which began on April 10, 1802, from Cape Comorin to Bengaluru.

Date: Thursday, 10.04.2025 | Time: 11.00 A M. | Place: Grand Steps of Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru

: Inauguration : Sri Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt of Karnataka
: Distinguished Invitees : Smt Nirmala Sitaraman, Hon'ble Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Govt of India; Miss Shobha Karandlaje, Hon'ble Minister of State for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Labour & Employment Govt of India
: August Presence : Sri D.K. Shivakumar, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister Govt of Karnataka; Sri Basavaraj S Horatti, Hon'ble Chairman Karnataka Legislative Council; Sri U.T. Khader, Hon'ble Speaker Karnataka Legislative Assembly; Sri Krishna Byregowda, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue Govt of Karnataka
: Presided by : Sri Rizwan Arshad, Hon'ble MLA, Shivajinagar Constituency

All Hon'ble Ministers, Members of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Vidhana Sabha, Vidhana Parishat, Chairman of Board and Corporations and Elected Representatives of the State.

Department's Achievements and Reforms in the last two years

- In last two years **26+** lakh farmers land parcels were surveyed and service provided through online **Mojini 3.0 system**. The average disposal period reduced from 3-6 months to 30 days.
- Under the revised version of **Phodi mukta Abhiyana 2.0, 2079** villages have been declared as phodi Mukta.
- For the first time in the state's history, the unsurveyed rural habitat areas are being surveyed using modern **drone technology**, completed in 18,752 villages and digital maps prepared.
- **NAKSHA** project for urban properties mapping is underway in 10 selected Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in the state.
- Simplified **"Darkhast Phodi Andolana"** being undertaken across the state to address the decades old Land grants to farmers and to provide clear land records.
- Resurvey being undertaken after 150 years using **advanced Drone technology** for large scale mapping of the state. 21 Districts 1.16 lakh square kilometers of the state's area covered.
- 1,227 Licensed surveyors, 750 Government surveyors, and 36 Assistant Directors of Land Records are recruited to augment capacity and service delivery.
- **5,000 "Rover"** modern survey instruments are being provided to surveyors to ensure accurate and speedy survey work in the department.
- **Digitization of land records: 2.43 crore** Akarband documents and **1.34 crore** Hissa (subdivision) sketches have been digitized and placed in public domain.

Hon'ble Revenue Minister, **Shri Krishna Byregowda**, is reviewing the modern surveying instruments used by the Survey Department in their daily survey operations.

All are cordially welcome

Shri J. Manjunath I.A.S
Commissioner, Survey Settlement and Land Records Department,
Department's all officers & officials and Department's all association bearers, members.

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Kristu Jayanti College ties up with AASSC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kristu Jayanti College, an autonomous institution in Bengaluru, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Aerospace and Aviation Sector Skill Council (AASSC). The partnership aims to enhance skill development, provide industry-relevant training, and improve employment opportunities in aerospace and aviation.

The MoU was signed by representatives from both institutions, in a step towards bridging the gap between academia and industry. Through this collaboration, students will have access to hands-on training, certification programmes, and exposure to real-time industry practices. The initiative is designed to equip students with the skills required by the aerospace and aviation industries, increasing their employability.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, RPRC, BHUBANESWAR
(e-mail Id: rprcbbsr@gmail.com) Tel-(0674)-2557925
No-T-07/ 669 /RPRC Date: 08-04-2025
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Bid Identification No. RPRC/29 / 2024-25

The Chief Executive, RPRC, Bhubaneswar on behalf of Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department, Govt. of Odisha invites RFP for Consultancy Services for "Survey, Soil Testing, Design Engineering, DPR Preparation for Drinking Water Project with Automation System at RPRC, Bhubaneswar" from eligible bidders through e-tendering process in two bid system. The bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria of the RFP document can access and download the complete RFP and other details from RPRC website **www.rprcbbsr.in** / e-portal **https://rprc.ewizard.in.** The bid calendar under the end-to-end process are-

EMD in Rs.	Cost of Bid Document in Rs.	Availability of RFP document (Online) From	To	Date of Opening of (Technical Bid)
7,000/- (Online)	6,000.00/- (Online)	09.04.2025 / 10.00 A.M.	24.04.2025 / 10.00 A.M.	24.04.2025 / 11.30 A.M.

Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation, If any, will be published in RPRC website and e-portal. Bidder needs to register on the portal after successful Registration and send a mail to eprochelpdesk.101@gmail.com with details (For New Bidders). For any other queries regarding registration & online tender submission contact to: Mr. Shivendra Kumar, Mobile- 9355030613 and Jitesh Kumar, Mobile- 9355030604, e-mail: eprochelpdesk.101@gmail.com

Sd/- Chief Executive, RPRC, Bhubaneswar
MM-05 OIPR-08004/11/0036/2425

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: COMML/MYS/02/2025
Dated: 02.04.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Tender invited for appointment of Halt Agent at Koranahalli train halt station situated between Birur and Talaguppa Section for a period of 5 (five) years.	Not Applicable

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 13.05.2025
For details log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager / Mysuru
PUB/08/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: Interlocking_ 16LC_SBCDiv Dated: 03.04.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
South Western Railway Bengaluru Division: Interlocking of 16 non interlocked LC gates over Bengaluru Division (Composite work of Signal & Telecommunications, Engineering, Electrical TRD & Electrical General).	Rs. 13,97,42,549.81/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 25.04.2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Bengaluru
PUB/14/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 02/2025/SBC Dated: 03.04.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No.	Description in Brief
L8247033A	Composite Pantry Equipments as per RCF Spec. No. EDTS130, Rev. B, CORR-6 or Latest. **(Qty: 17 Sets)**
	Last date for Submission/Tender Due on: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 28.04.2025**
L8255530	Supply of Bellows Set with Silicone Rubber Coating on both sides for LHB / EOG / HOG type AC Coaches as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO / PE / SPEC / AC / 0197-2020 **(Qty: 400 Sets)**
	Last date for Submission/Tender Due on: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 28.05.2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru
PUB/13/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Mr. Nagesh Babu Peram & GSVR Rajesh** residents of Flat B-901 and Flat B-301,Myhna Heights, Gunjur Main Road, Vinayaka Nagar, Bangalore intends to purchase schedule "A" & "B" properties from Sri.Y. Ananda Kumar Reddy & Dr Gaddam Srinivasa Kumari Residing at D:No 15-385, Ramakrishna street, Madanapalle, Annamayya District, Andhra Pradesh-517325 and No.B 51/2, Cassia Street, Ramanasree California Gardens, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064 Any person, claiming to have any charge, lien, interest minor, claims, right/s whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge their claim to the undersigned with documentary proof on or before 25/04/2025 failing which my clients will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the schedule property no claims shall be entertained thereafter.

Schedule "A" Property

All that piece and parcel of the WEST facing vacant site bearing No. 262, formed in Survey No.79/2 ,along with other Larger extent of other survey numbers situated at layout known and called as "ORCHID NIRVANA 2.0, Akkupete village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, falls under Ward No.1, Division No.1, Katha No.1105/79/2/262, Property No.38-533-424, measuring East to West :12 mtrs and North to South: 9 mtrs., **and bounded on :** East by : Plot No. 269, West by : ROAD, North by : Plot No.261, South by : Plot No.263.

Schedule "B" Property

All that piece and parcel of the WEST facing vacant site bearing No. 263, formed in Survey No.79/2 ,along with other Larger extent of other survey numbers situated at layout known and called as "ORCHID NIRVANA 2.0, Akkupete Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, falls under Ward No.1, Division No.1, Katha No.1106/79/2/263, Property No.38-533-422, measuring East to West :12 mtrs and North to South: 9 mtrs., **and bounded on** East by : Plot No.268, West by : ROAD, North by: Plot No.262, South by : Plot No.264.

From: **VEMURI.SRINIVAS,** Advocate
MA,LLB, KAR No. 514/99
Sri. Venkateswara RAO Nilaya,
Bhagawanthi associates No.613,
Kaveri Layout, Marathalli, Bangalore-37.
Mobile : 9243110037
Mail : vsradvocate37@gmail.com
Date : 09/04/2025

Govt. of Bihar

BIHAR STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION
(GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT)

NIT No- 01/2025-26

1. **Request for Proposal: - Software Solution for Creation and Integration of Recruitment Website for Bihar Staff Selection Commission (BSSC):**

Important Information: -

DATE OF ISSUE RFP: - **09.04.2025**

CONTRACT PERIOD: - **Three Years (36 Months)**

EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT: - **Rs.5,0,0000/- (Rupees FIVE LAKH) Payable through e-challan along with the bid.**

DOCUMENT FEE: - **Rs.10,000/- (TEN THOUSAND) (Non-Refundable) Payable through e-challan along with the bid.**

BID SUBMISSION START DATE : **09.04.2025 from 10:00 A.M.**

PRE-BID MEETING: - **22.04.2025 at 03:30 P.M. (Conference Hall BSSC)**

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID: **16.05.2025 till 3.00 P.M.**

TECHNICAL BID OPENING: **19-05-2025 at 11:30 A.M.**

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION: **To be Informed**

OPENING OF FINANCIAL BIDS OF TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED BIDDERS: **To be Informed**

The interested bidder shall have to download the bid document from the website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in .

Secretary
Bihar Staff Selection Commission,
Veterinary College Campus,
P.O. B.V. College, Patna, BIHAR- 800014
Phone: (0612)-2220359, 2227727,
Website: https://bssc.bihar.gov.in/
E-mail: secybssc@gmail.com

Any change in information given in this Request for Proposal document will be displayed on our website "https://bssc.bihar.gov.in" wherever feasible

This information is available on **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also**

PR. No. 000934 (GAD) 25-26

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार। सचिव बिहार कर्मचारी चयन आयोग, पटना

Govt. of Jharkhand
Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002, Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165, E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice

Tender reference no.: 01/JREDA/GCRT/RC/25-26 Dated: 09.04.2025

Online bids are invited for Rate Contract for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Grid connected Rooftop SPV Power Plants of different capacities including five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) on Turnkey basis on Government Buildings anywhere in the state of Jharkhand (JREDA). The details are as follows:

1	Name of the work	Rate Contract for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 05 MWp Grid connected Rooftop SPV Power Plants of different capacities including five years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) on Turnkey basis on Government Buildings anywhere in the state of Jharkhand
2	Tentative quantity (kWp)	**05 MWp**
3	Completion of work	**04 (Four) Months**
4	Period of contract	**05 (Five) Years**
5	Date of publication of NIT on website: http:// jharkhandtenders.gov.in	**19.04.2025 (Saturday)**
6	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	**30.04.2025 (Wednesday)** at 2.00 P.M.
7	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	**14.05.2025 (Wednesday)** upto 05:00 PM
8	Submission of Bid fee and EMD through Online Via SBI Payment Gateway of Jharkhand Tenders.	**14.05.2025 (Wednesday)** upto 05:00 PM
9	Technical Bid Opening Date	**16.05.2025 (Friday)** at 3.00 P.M.
10	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency(JREDA) 3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai,Doranda, Ranchi- 834002 (Jharkhand)
11	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/67/61/9570086777
12	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491163/67/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: http://jharkhand tenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in & www.jreda.com

Sd/-
Director, JREDA, Ranchi
PR.NO.350063 Energy(25-26):D

Office of the Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration (DMA)
9th & 10th Floor, V.V. Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560 001. Karnataka.

EOI Notification No: 1720697/DMA/5/2025-DMA Date: 09.04.2025

EOI NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Director, Directorate of Municipal Administration, Karnataka, The Joint Director (Development), Directorate of Municipal Administration, invites EOI for the following work:

Sl.No.	Description of Work
1	Expression of Interest for the Rate arrival for Supply and fixing of Outdoor fitness/Open Gym,Children Play Equipments, Mild Steel Park Benches & Dust bins in Urban Local Bodies (ULB's) in Karnataka.

Calendar of Events: 1. Last date for receipt of EoI Proposals: **17.04.2025. Link of EOI Document: http://www.municipaladmn.gov.in/en/tenders**

Note: For any additional information and clarifications, may be contact **Joint Director (Development),** 10th Floor, DMA, V.V. Towers, Dr. Ambkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 01 during the office hours. Contact No: **080-22863731** e-mail address: **dmablr.jdd1@gmail.com**

Sd/-
Joint Director (Development),
Directorate of Municipal Administration,
Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/186/MAA/2025-26

Govt. of Bihar

BIHAR STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION
(GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT)

E-NIT No- 02/2025-26

E-TENDER TITLE: - Installation of Touchless IRIS Capturing and Facial Recognition Device for Examination Conducted by Bihar Staff Selection Commission (BSSC):

Important Information: -

DATE OF ISSUE RFP : - **09.04.2025**

CONTRACT PERIOD: **- Three Years (36 Months)**

EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT: - **Rs.1,00,0000/- (Ten lakhs) Payable through e-challan along with the bid.**

DOCUMENT FEE: - **Rs.10,000/- (Ten thousand) (Non-Refundable) Payable through e-challan along with the bid.**

BID SUBMISSION START DATE :**09.04.2025 from 10:00 A.M.**

PRE-BID MEETING: - **22.04.02025 at 11.30 A.M. (Conference Hall BSSC)**

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID:- **15.05.2025 till 3.00 P.M.**

TECHNICAL BID OPENING:- **16.05.2025 at 11:30 A.M.**

TECHNICAL PRESENTATION:- **Date to be Informed.**

OPENING OF FINANCIAL BIDS OF TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED BIDDERS:- **Date to be Informed.**

The interested bidder shall have to download the bid document from the website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in.

Any change in information given in this Tender document will be displayed on our website "https://bssc.bihar.gov.in" wherever feasible

Secretary
Bihar Staff Selection Commission,
Veterinary College Campus,
P.O. B.V. College, Patna, BIHAR- 800014
Phone: (0612)-2220359, 2227727
Website: https://bssc.bihar.gov.in/
E-mail: secybssc@gmail.com

PR- 00935 (G A D) 2025-26

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

Govt. of Jharkhand
Energy Department
Jharkhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (JREDA)
3rd Floor, S.L.D.C. Building,
Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-834002.
Ph.: 0651-2491161, Fax: 0651-2491165,
E-mail: info@jreda.com; Website: www.jreda.com

e-Procurement Notice

Tender Reference No.: 06/JREDA/SPV/SSLS(LED)/25-26 Dated: 09.04.2025

1	Name of the work	Rate Contract for the work of Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning including 5 years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) of 20W/30W/40W White LED based Solar Street Lighting Systems (SSLS) with Lithium Ferro Phosphate Battery including Remote Monitoring Systems (RMS) under Solar Photovoltaic Programme on Turnkey basis across the state of Jharkhand (JREDA)
2	Period of contract	05(Five) Years
3	Time of completion	04 (Four) Months
4	Date of publication of NIT on website:http:// jharkhandtenders.gov.in	21.04.2025 (Monday)
5	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	28.04.2025 (Monday) at 1:00 P.M.
6	Last date & time for receipt of online bids	14.05.2025 (Wednesday) upto 05:00 PM
7	Submission of original copies of Bid fee &EMD through Online via SBI Payment Gateway of Jharkhand Tenders	14.05.2025 (Wednesday) upto 05:00 PM
8	Technical Bid Opening Date	16.05.2025 (Friday) at 3.00 P.M.
9	Name & address of office inviting tender	Director, Jharkhand Renewable Energy DevelopmentAgency(JREDA) 3rd Floor, SLDC Building, Kusai, Doranda,Ranchi- 834002 (Jharkhand)
10	Contact no. of procurement officer	0651-2491163/61/7004806449
11	Helpline no. of e-procurement	0651-2491163/61

Any corrigendum/addendum can be seen on website: http://jharkhand tenders.gov.in
& www.jreda.com. Further details can be seen on website: http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
& www.jreda.com

Sd/-
Director,
JREDA, Ranchi
PR 350073 Energy(25-26).D

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on Behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works.

Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Approximate Cost of the work	Earnest Money	Completion period of the work	Maintenance Period
06-2025-SrDENS	1-improvement of C&W old and new shed at Wadi station under ADEN/KLBG, 2-Improvement to TTE rest house at Wadi station under ADEN/KLBG, 3-Replacement of PPGI sheet and valley gutter of COP on PF NO-1 and repairs of booking office toilet block at SUR station.	Rs. 2,80,77,325.26	Rs. 2,90,400.00	09 Months	12 Months
Last date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website.		30.04.2025 upto 15:00 hrs			
Date & Time of Opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in		30.04.2025 at 15:30 hrs			

The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigendum issued for this tender. Website: www.ireps.gov.in.

Divisonal Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur

SUN 65 अनाधिकृत रूप से रेल लाइन को पार करना दंडनीय अपराध है

JAPIT
Jharkhand Agency for Promotion of Information Technology
(An Autonomous body under Department of Information Technology, Govt. of Jharkhand)
Ground Floor, Engineer's Hostel – I, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand
Phone. 0651-2401044/2401067, E-mail- japit_doit@rediffmail.com

CORRIGENDUM-I
Purchase, Installation, Configuration & Integration of two Server System (Live & Backup) & Other Equipment with 05 Years Comprehensive Warranty along with 24x7 Technical Manpower at Data Center of Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi
Tender Ref No. JAPIT/HIGHCOURT-DMS/01/2025

With reference to the above tender, please be informed that the tender schedule has been revised.

	Revised Tender Schedules	
S.N.	**Basic Requirement**	**Specific Requirement**
1.	Start Date for Online Bid Submission	11/04/2025 (3:00 P.M.)
2.	Last Date for Online Submission of Bids	17/04/2025 (3:00 P.M.)
3.	Date of Commercial Bid opening	To be announced later

For further details please visit https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
PR Ref No. 349383

PR.NO.350029 Information Technology(25-26):D

Sd/-
(OSD, JAP-IT)

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*T&C apply.

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 01 UBL 2025-26
Dated: 01.04.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division:**	Rs. 18,48,73,071.00
	South Hubballi - Dharwad (SUBL-DWR) Section: Provision of W beam metal crash barrier along side the track for a length of 42.06Km. (Two Packet system).	
2	**Hubballi Division:**	Rs. 9,95,77,040.00
	Gadag - Hotagi (GDG-HG): Proposed Construction of Foot over bridge (FOB) for Halt station in Gadag - Hotagi (GDG-HG) Section (05 Nos. - Kadlimatti, Sitimani, Kudalasangama, Benal & Angadageri).	
3	**Hubballi Division:**	Rs. 3,98,30,816.00
	Gadag - Hotagi (GDG-HG): Proposed Construction of Foot Over Bridge (FOB) for Halt station in Gadag - Hotagi (GDG-HG) Section (02 Nos. - Somankatti & Yeragoppa).	
4	**Hubballi Division:**	Rs. 7,32,156.00
	Supply of Alumino Thermic Welding Portion in Sr. Divisional Engineer / East / Hubballi Jurisdiction.	
5	**Hubballi Division:**	Rs. 1,62,41,479.00
	TBR - 42.42 Km. (Hosapete Jn - Ballari Jn - TBR - 7.300 Tkm., Hospete Jn - Vyasa Colony Jn - TBR - 13.120 Tkm & Vyasa Colony Jn - Swamihalli - TBR - 22.000 Tkm).	
6	**Hubballi Division:**	Rs. 1,52,20,167.00
	Gadag - Hotagi (GDG-HG) Section: Rebuilding of Br. No. 54DN in Mugalalli Halt - Jadramakunti (MGL-JRKT) Section & 96 DN in Tadwal - Sulerjavalge (TVL-SLGE) Section on account of ORN 3 with precast RCC segmental Boxes by RH girder / cut and cover method.	

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 01.05.2025
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination / Hubballi
PUB/07/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, TAMBULE Annarao Swaminath Dependent of Sangameshwar Annarao Tambule R/o Flat No. S–2, Sri Vri Apartment, 5th Main, Yelahanka, Bangalore– 560064 have changed my name from Tambule Annarao Swaminath to Annarao Swaminath Tambule vide affidavit dated 04 Apr 2025 before T.V. Bhadravijaya, Bangalore.

I, TAMBULE Satyabhama Annarao Dependent of Sangameshwar Annarao Tambule R/o Flat No. S–2, Sri Vri Apartment, 5th Main, Yelahanka, Bangalore– 560064 have changed my name from Tambule Satyabhama Annarao to Satyabhama Annarao Tambule vide affidavit dated 04 Apr 2025 before T.V. Bhadravijaya, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VENKATA RAO PENDEM**, S/o Nageshwara Rao Pendem, age 41 years, R/at No. 1269, Ashwini Nilaya, Sir M. Vishweshwaraiah Layout, 4th Block, Shanimahathma Temple, Bangalore-560 056 do hereby declare that in my daughter **POORVIKA .V**, SSLC marks card, my name is wrongly mentioned as **VINOD .N** instead of **VENKATA RAO PENDEM**, both the names i.e. **VINOD .N** and **VENKATA RAO PENDEM** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 09-04-2025, sworn before Senior Sheristedar, JMFC (Traffic Court-3), Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hitherto Known As Madhumithra D/O Saravanan Chelliah Residing Vbhc-Vaibhava, Flat403, Block-38, Plot-51, Chandapura-Anekal Main Road, Byagadadenahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka-562106, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known Madhumithra Saravanan For All Future Purposes

EDUCATIONAL

VACANCIES

KANNUR UNIVERSITY
(ADMINISTRATION BRANCH)
No. Acad B3/23389/2019
Dated: 08.04.2025
RE NOTIFICATION/NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in Department of Management Studies on regular basis. Application can be submitted through the official website of the University (Recruitment link) from **09.04.2025** to **28.04.2025**. Corrigendum, if any, will be posted only on the University website. Last Date of submission of Online Applications is **28.04.2025** and receipt of hard copy is **05.05.2025, 5 PM**.

For more details, visit www.kannuruniversity.ac.in.

Sd/- , REGISTRAR

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUNIL Kumar, r/at Block -A, Flat No.007, VBC Oracle Ridge, Beretena Agrahara, Hosur Main Road, Bangalore 560100 have changed my daughter name from N Salome Sunil to Nunna Salome Sunil vide affidavit dtd 09.04.2025 sworn before Notary H.Prakasha, Bluru

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRL.CIVIL JUDGE (SENIOR DIVISION):: TENALI
O.S. 209 of 2018

Between:-
Modukuri Rajyalakshmi
...Plaintiff
Vs
Modukuri Kundavalli alias Papayamma (died) and others
...Defendants

To
D- 5 - Muppala Krishna Divya, W/o. M. Ravi,
D- 6 - Dodla Krishna Keerthi, W/o. Purandhara Reddy,
Resident of Flat No.45, 2nd Floor, 5th Main, Near Bharath Petroleum Pump, Central Revenue Lay out, Sivaram Kuranth Nagar, Bedgenagar, Bangalore-560 077.

Whereas the plaintiff filed the above suit against defendants and petition and for other relifes. The above suit is posted to 28-04-2025 and you may appear before this Hon'ble Court on 28-04-2025 at 10-30 A.M. either in person or through an Advocate and file your objection If you any and in default the matter will be decided exparte.

Adjournment Date 28-04-2025

(By order of the Hon'ble Court)

GADDIPATI RAMBABU
Advocate for Petitioner/Plaintiff
Tenali, Guntur District, A.P.
Cell No. 9490224350.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE FAMILY COURT, ERNAKULAM
OP. NO. 1677 / 2023
(In the matter of Custody & Guardianship of minor child SHIVIKA GOURI, aged 3½ yrs.)

PETITIONER
Harikrishnan A.B, aged 26 yrs., S/o. Bhaskaran, Ambadithazhathu, Kanayanoor Taluk, Poonithura P.O., Pin-682038, Ernakulam Dist.

RESPONDENTS
1. Ashitha R Nath, D/o. Reghunathan T, aged 27 yrs., residing at Gowri, Jyothi Nagar, Horamavu Agara, Bangalore-560043. **2.** Asha Reghunathan, W/o. Reghunathan T, aged 55 yrs., residing at Gowri, Jyothi Nagar, Horamvu Agara, Bangalore-560043

COURT NOTICE

The Respondents in the above case may take notice that the above Guardian OP case has ordered substituted service by affixture and publication is ordered by this court and is posted to 19.6.2025 at 11:00 am for your appearance before the Family Court, Ernakulam. Take notice that if you fail to appear on that date, you will be decided as Ex-parte in the above case.

Dated this the 29th day of March, 2025.

SANDHYA VENI
Counsel for the Petitioner

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction Notification

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites bidders, fulfilling the requisite eligibility criteria as stipulated in the afore mentioned auction catalogue, to participate in the e-Auction for the under mentioned service.

Name of the work with its location

The Award of Contract for G-48 Catering Stall Unit, Hubballi 3rd Entry at PF-7/8 between Pillar No. 11 & 12 towards Dharwad (DWR) End. **(E-Auction Catalogue No.: CS-G-48-UBL)**

E-Auction on 17.04.2025 from 11:00 Hrs to 11:30 Hrs.

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in (E-Auction Portal)

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/ Hubballi

PUB/06/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Dy.CEE(W), NWR, Ajmer on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender for the following work up to 15.00Hrs. on the mention date. **Tender No.:** EL/50/22/2024-25, **Name of work:** Development of POH maintenance facilities for rolling stocks including MEMU at Carriage Workshop, Ajmer, **Approximate cost:** Rs. 12685946.46, **Earnest money**: Rs. 213400.00, **Date & Time of closing of E-Tender:** 25.04.2025 at 15.00 Hrs., **Date & Time of opening of E-Tender:** 25.04.2025 at 15.30 Hrs., The details of above E-Tender is available on website: www.ireps.gov.in

396-PS/25

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy.CMM/NWR/Ajmer, acting for and Behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 42245810A dt. 07.04.25, Closing dt: 28.04.2025 at 14.25 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their Original / Revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offers received shall be ignored. **Description of work:** Supply, installation and commissioning of Retro fitment of Revised WSP wiring as per RDSO drawing No.CG-18246, Alt-0 or Latest with modified IP67 grade Junction boxes as per drawing no.CG-19005, Alt-2 or Latest and Mil-grade type connectors for FAIVELEY Make WSP fitted coaches. (Scope of work & Bill of Materials with part numbers is attached as Annexure) Kit for Modification of Junction Box Assembly as per our Annexure A1 for Kit part no. FT0053903-K01 as per RDSO Drg. No. CG-19005, Alt-2 or Latest, **Quantity:** 55 Set., **Date & Time for submission of Tender:** Submission of E-Tender up to 28.04.25 at 14.25 Hrs., **Website particular:** ireps.gov.in

398-PS/25

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that my client is intending to purchase the property more fully described in the schedule herein below from its sole and absolute owner Mr. Siddharth Kumar, aged about 40 years, S/o Late Vivek Kumar, presently residing at 9221, Great Lake Circle, Dayton, OHIO 45458, United States of America.

Any person/s having any right, title, interest or claim over the schedule property or having any objection for the proposed sale transaction may lodge his/her/their claim with the undersigned in writing with all supporting documents in originals with regard to such claim within **15 days** from the date of this publication. If no such claim is received within the stipulated time, my client will be advised to proceed with the sale transaction. Any such claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.8, measuring East to West 24.40+22.50/2 Meters and North to South 18.00+ 18.30/2 Meters, in all measuring 425.60 Square Meters, comprising of Basement, Ground plus 4 Upper Floors residential building, each floor having a built up area of 18 squares, of RCC Roofing, Mosaic Flooring, Jungle Wood Doors & Windows with all civic amenities such as Electricity, Water & Sanitary connections, situated at 29th Main Road, 4th Cross, BTM Layout II Stage, Phase 1, Bangalore, in WARD No.176- BTM Layout of the BBMP bearing E.P.I.D No. 3978805155 and bounded on the:

East by : Property No.37, West by : Road, North by : Property No.7, South by : Road

Sd/- **B. NARENDRA BALIGA,** Advocate
No.468/21, First Floor, 26th Main,
39th Cross, 9th Block, Jayanagar,
Bengaluru - 560069.
Mobile : 9845952566
Place: Bengaluru Date: 09.04.2025

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

For & on behalf of the President of India Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Construction), North Western Railway, Jodhpur Invites E-Tender against tender No. S&T_C_JU_24-25_03 (Two Packet system). **Name of Work:** "Supply of material and execution of indoor & outdoor work for provision of Electronic interlocking-MSDAC based Automatic Block Signalling system between Marwar kori (Excl.) to Bhildi in connection with doubling of LN-SMR-BLDI section of Jodhpur Division of North Western Railway. The work involves provision of new Electronic Interlocking at Malwara, Raniwara, Marwar ratanpur, Jari, Dhanera, Ramsen, Jenal stations & alteration in EI at Odhava staion of North western railway & alteraion in EI at Bhildi Junction of Western railway along with Thirteen numbers of auto signalling huts. Provision of MSDAC parallel with DC track circuit in yards & Dual MSDAC in block section associated works like trenching & laying of signalling and Telecom cables in pre-fabricated ducts/DWC/GI pipes, supply-installation of point machines, Apparatus cases, Electric Lifting Barrier Gate, Signals, Track circuit equipment, Earthing material, Data loggers, ELD, Fuse alarms, fire alarms, Passenger Amenity Telecom Items etc., **Approx Cost of work:** Rs. 926647085.70, **Earnest money (Rs):** Rs. 4783200.00, **Date & time for submission up to on www.ireps.gov.in:** 02-05-25 upto 11.00 hrs., **Website particulars and Notice board location:** Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Const.), Construction Unit, DRM Office, NWR, Jodhpur-342001.

395-PS/25

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Bihar Mausam Sewa Kendra

(Planning & Development Department)

Govt. of Bihar

Tender no: **BMSK/39/2024/RFP-01/2025-26**
(Through e-procurement mode only)
(website-https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

The Bihar Mausam Sewa Kendra(Planning & Development Department) Govt. of Bihar, Patna invites e-tender under bids system from reputed developer/supplier forDesigning, Developing, Testing and Commissioning of Dynamic Web-Portal and Mausam Bihar Mobile App (iOS version) & Upgrading and Commissioning of Mausam Bihar App (Android version) for Bihar Mausam Sewa Kendra (BMSK), Patna, Bihar. The RFP document can be downloaded from the website-https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in. The bid document should accompany the cost of RFP document in the form of e-payment mode in rupees as per applicable.

S.N.	Scope of Work	Tender Fee (inclusive of GST @18%) to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e NEFT/RTGS/ Credit Card/Debit Card) **(In Rupees)**	Tender Processing Fee (None Refundable) (inclusive of GST @18%) to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card) **(In Rupees)**	Earnest Money Deposit/Bid Security **(In Rupees)**	Time of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Designing, Developing, Testing and Commissioning of Dynamic Web-Portal and Mausam Bihar Mobile App (iOS version) & Upgrading and Commissioning of Mausam Bihar App (Android version) for Bihar Mausam Sewa Kendra (BMSK), Patna, Bihar.	**Rs.11,800/-**	**Rs.INR 3,540/-**	**Rs.** INR. **6,00,000**/-	**60** days from the last date (deadline) for submission of proposals.

Tender Schedule/Programme

S.N.	Activity	Date/Time: Duration
1.	RFP No and Date	BMSK 01/2025-26
2.	Last Date for submission of written queries for clarification	15.04.2025 (dir-bmsk@bihar.gov.in)
3.	Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	19.04.2025 2:00 PM
4.	Venue of Pre-Bid Meeting	**Hybrid Mode&Online at Bihar Mausam Sewa Kendra**, Block-D, 6th Floor, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Nehru Marg, Patna -800023, Bihar.
5.	Bid Validity Period	180 days from the last date (deadline) for submission of proposals.
6.	Non-Refundable Tender Fee/Cost	INR. 11,800/- Only (inclusive of 18% GST) payable online through e-Procurement.
7.	Non-Refundable Tender Processing Fee	INR. 3,540/- Only (inclusive of 18% GST) payable online through e-Procurement.
8.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD/ Bid Security)	INR. 6,00,000/- (Rupees Six Lakh Only) on Bihar eproc2.0 site.
9.	Performance Bank Guarantee (PBG)	10% of the total contract value within 1 week from date of issuance of work order.
10	Sell Start Date of RFP	09.04.2025
11.	Last Date and Time of submission of Bids	02.05.2025 till 03:00 PM
12.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	02.05.2025 – 5:00 PM **(https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in) Venue-Bihar Mausam Sewa Kendra,** Block D, 6th Floor Sardar Patel Bhawan, Nehru Marg, Patna-800023
13.	Date & Time of Opening Financial Bids	Will be intimated to the Technically qualified bidders.
14.	Contact person, Phone No. and Email	Dr. S. Neethu, Scientific Officer, Email: dir-bmsk@bihar.gov.in, Mobile No.-8439267558
15.	Address For Communication	Bihar Mausam Sewa Kendra (BMSK), Planning and Development Department, Govt. of Bihar, 6th Floor, Block-D, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Nehru Marg, Patna-800023, Bihar.

Detailed description of the item and instruction for submitting bid/offer can be downloaded from e-tender website**(https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in.)**

Tender Inviting Authority
Director
(Bihar Mausam Sewa Kendra)
Bihar, Patna.

PR. No. 000690 (Planning) 2025-26

This information is available on website **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** also

अपने जीवन साथी के प्रति वफादार रहें,
किसी अनजान स्त्री/पुरूष से असुरक्षित यौन संबंध से बचें।

Mysore Medical College and Research Institute,

Irwin Road, Mysore-570001
(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
Ph: +91-0821-2520512 (Off.), 2520803 (Fax)
Website : www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in/
E-mail : mmcrimysore@yahoo.com
No. Chemicals/01/2024-25 Date : 05.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the Supply of Chemicals & Reagents to Departments of MMC & RI, Mysuru. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 07.04.2025 and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is 06.05.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected. If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

DIPR-DD-MYS/39/KSMCA-039/2025-26 **Sd/- Director and Dean**

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the empanelled contractors in KHB and also willing to empanel through Karnataka public procurement portal for the below mentioned works.

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Construction of additional works for Govt. First Grade College building at Guledagudda, Bagalakote District under SCP/TSP 2024-25. **Work Indent No:** Tender reference Number KHB/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT553 & IFT No.4/2025-26 Date: 08.04.2025 & IFT No.4/2025-26 Date: 08.04.2025 **Amount put tender :** Rs.2,66,44,460/-
2	Construction of Government First Grade College at Sindhanur in Raichur District under KKRDB fund 2024-25. **Work Indent No:** Tender reference Number KHB/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT552 & IFT No.3/2025-26 Date: 08.04.2025 & IFT No.3/2025-26 Date: 08.04.2025. **Amount put tender :** Rs.3,51,06,607/-.
3	Construction of Government First Grade College at Sindhanur in Raichur District under SCP/TSP 2024-25 scheme. **Work Indent No:** Tender reference Number KHB/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT551& IFT No.2/2025-26 Date: 08.04.2025. **Amount put tender :** Rs.3,80,58,199/-

Last date for submission of bids: For Sl. No. 1 - 09.05.2025. up to 4.00 PM. and for Sl.No. 2 & 3 -23.04.2025 up to 4.00 PM.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/165/AKAR/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for below mentioned work.

Last date for submission of bid: 09.05.2025 upto 4.00 PM

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Construction of District office complex at Vijayapura District. **Tender Reference No.** KHB/2025-26/ BD/WORK_INDENT 557 & IFT No. 9/2025-26 Date : 09.04.2025. **Amount put to tender:** Rs.41,89,26,917/-

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/166 /AKAR/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

Government of Karnataka
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, CHAMARAJANAGAR
Office of the Deputy Director, Department of Social Welfare
DC Office, Room No. 121, Chamarajanagar
Email : dswochanagards@gmail.com Phone : 08226-222855

No. DD:SWD:CHN:KREIS-CR:2025-26 Date : 04-04-2025

Department of Social Welfare, Chamarajanagar District, KPPP Mentor Tender Invited for the provision of Department of Social Welfare, Chamarajanagar, Maximum Estimated Rs. 400.00 lakhs offers in the tender invited by E-Procurement, which can be downloaded online on 05-04-2025 to 05-05-2025 Till 5.00 PM, Last Date for Submission of Tenders : 05-05-2025 Till 5.00 PM, Bid Opening Date : 06-05-2025 After 5.30 PM and more Further changes to this notification will only be published by E-Procurement.

For more Information / Details Visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** / Website or Contact Department Social Welfare Office, Chamarajanagar.

Sd/- Deputy Director
DIPR : CHANAR:10:2025-26 Dept. of Social Welfare, Chamarajanagar

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, BBMP, K.R. Pura, Mahadevapura Zone, Bengaluru - 560 036.

Qtn.No: SAD/Hort/MZ/QP-04/2024-25 Date: 09-04-2025

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION (IFQ)
(Short Term Notification)

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture invites Item Rate Quotation for the works details in the table given below. The Bidder may submit quotation any or all of the works given in the table. Bidder must submit quotation in the form of post or physically to Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, BBMP, K.R. Pura, Mahadevapura Zone.

Sl. No.	Name of work
1	Water Supply through tanker to Parks in Mahadevapura Constituency. **Estimate Cost:** Rs.4.98 Lakhs.
2	Water Supply through tanker to Parks in K.R.Pura Constituency. **Estimate Cost:** Rs.4.98 Lakhs.

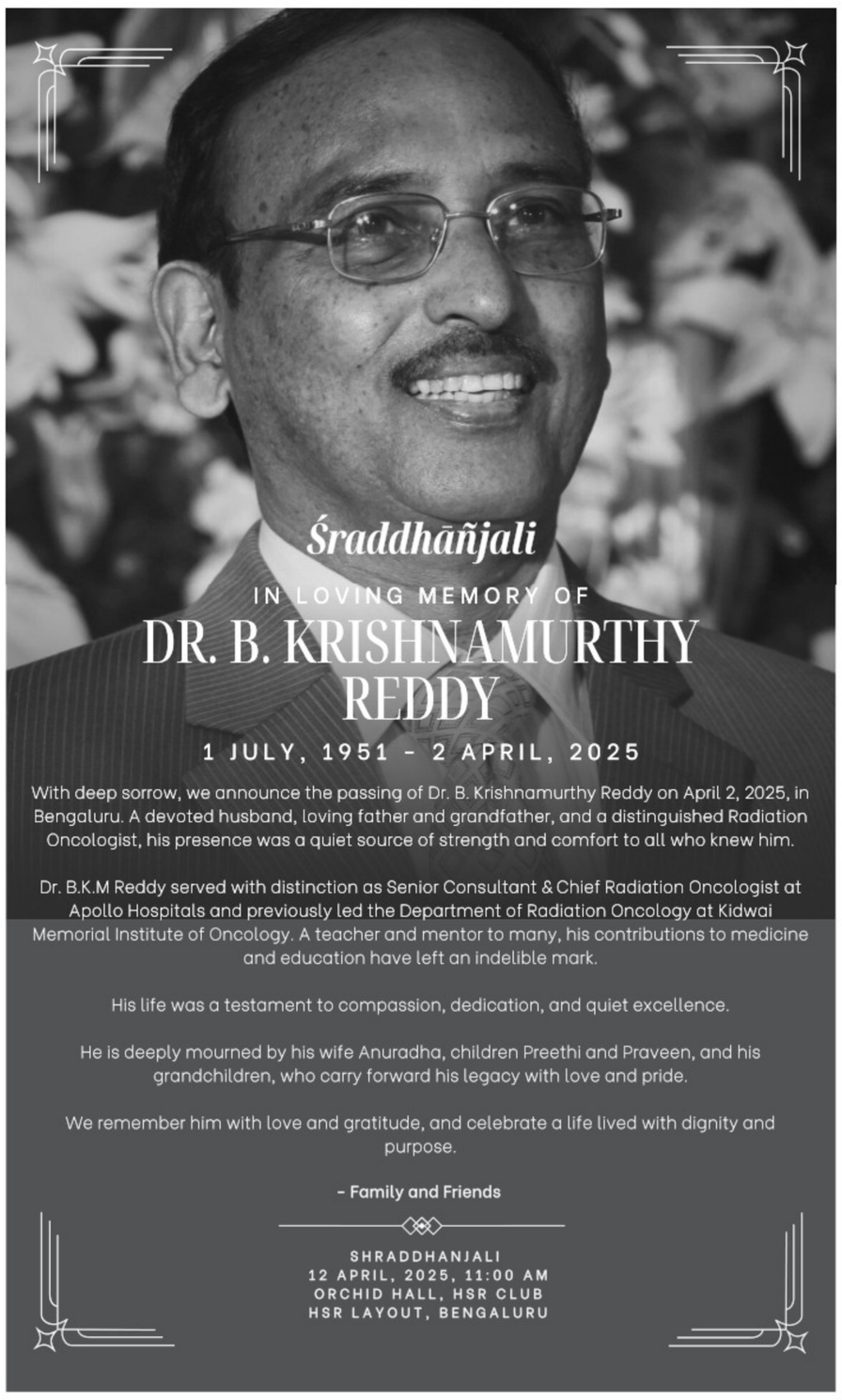
Calendar of Events: 1) Submission of Quotation: **11.04.2025 onwards.** 2) Last date for submission of quotations on or before **17.04.2025 upto 4.00 p.m.** 3) Date of opening of quotation is at **19.04.2025, 11.00 a.m. onwards.** 4) Before submission of quotations, bidders must ensure that all the necessary documents have been attached with quote.

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days.

Sd/- Senior Asst. Director of Horticulture, Mahadevapura Zone, BBMP

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH


Śraddhāñjali
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DR. B. KRISHNAMURTHY REDDY
1 JULY, 1951 - 2 APRIL, 2025
With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Dr. B. Krishnamurthy Reddy on April 2, 2025, in Bengaluru. A devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, and a distinguished Radiation Oncologist, his presence was a quiet source of strength and comfort to all who knew him.
Dr. B.K.M Reddy served with distinction as Senior Consultant & Chief Radiation Oncologist at Apollo Hospitals and previously led the Department of Radiation Oncology at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology. A teacher and mentor to many, his contributions to medicine and education have left an indelible mark.
His life was a testament to compassion, dedication, and quiet excellence.
He is deeply mourned by his wife Anuradha, children Preethi and Praveen, and his grandchildren, who carry forward his legacy with love and pride.
We remember him with love and gratitude, and celebrate a life lived with dignity and purpose.
- Family and Friends
SHRADDHANJALI
12 APRIL, 2025, 11:00 AM
ORCHID HALL, HSR CLUB
HSR LAYOUT, BENGALURU

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

"Today happens to be the Birth Anniversary of one of the greatest Coonoorians,

Dr. A.M. SELVARAJ,

Professor of Medicine, Madras Medical College, fondly called as AMS, he was revered by his Pupils, Juniors and Peers alike for his encyclopaedic knowledge in Medicine, his dedication in treating patients, his incredible work ethics and of course his eccentricities".

Facebook April 10th 2019.

10-04-1930

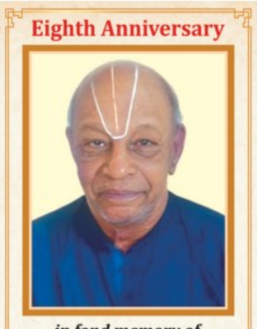
Prof. (Dr.) ALANDUR MEGHANATHAN SELVARAJ

10th April 1930 – 23rd September 2011 – A Tribute

Dr. ARCOT LAKSHMANSWAMY
MEGHANATHAN MUDALIAR EDUCATIONAL TRUST
SRI LAKSHMI DEVI CHARITABLE TRUST
DR. ALANDUR MEGHANATHAN SELVARAJ MEDICAL TRUST
Anna Nagar, Chennai.
Ph: 044 - 43557496 Cell : 9790826928

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Eighth Anniversary



in fond memory of

V SOUNDARARAJAN

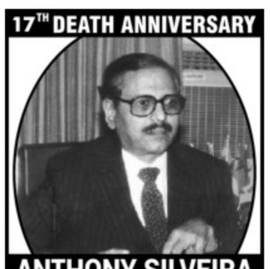
(10-04-1935 - 10-04-2017)

Rtd.Sr.Audit Officer, AG Kerala

Wife: **Rajalakshmi,**
Sons: **Srinivasaraghavan, Kannan,**
Daughter: **Radhika,**
Son-in-Law: **Balaji Srinivasan,**
Daughters-in-law: **Anurada, Amirtha**
Grand Children: **Srinidhi, Sriraag, Srijith, Swetha, Mahima**
Ct: +91 9791183328

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

17TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



ANTHONY SILVEIRA
DGM (Retd) - IOB
06.02.1928 - 10.04.2008

"Your cherished memories will always remain in our hearts guiding and blessing us."

Remembered by :
GEETA P SHETTI
GM (Retd), Indian Overseas Bank
Flat H/103, Satt Adhars
Basilio Complex, St. Inez,
Panaji, Goa - 403001
Mobile : 07715043211

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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Pending Bills: Following T.N. order, State may think of approaching SC

Sources say the government believes the Governor is going beyond his brief by seeking clarifications on a number of Bills

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

In the backdrop of the Supreme Court terming the Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's conduct of prolonged inaction on key Bills as 'unconstitutional', the Karnataka Cabinet is likely to discuss and decide on approaching the apex court for delay in according sanction to Bills by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot.

Currently, six Bills are with the Governor's office awaiting assent while seven that were sent to the Governor have come back to the government for clarifications. Four Bills have been reserved by the Governor for the assent of the President of India.

Government sources aware of the development said that the Cabinet that is scheduled to meet on Friday will discuss future action that the Karnataka government could take, with respect to keeping Bills pending and seeking clarifications in the State that has become habitual since the Congress government came to power.

The Governor and Congress government in the State have been at loggerheads on multiple occasions in the past year. While according sanction of prosecution against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah last year had become a big flashpoint, several Cabinet Ministers had accused the Governor of indulging in politics by withholding assent to 11 Bills in 2024.

Recently, the Governor wrote to the Chief Minister to highlight the vacancy at the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag, for nearly nine months even as he returned the Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which seeks to replace him as the chancellor of the university.

Sources said that the government holds that the Governor is going beyond his brief by seeking clarifications to a number of Bills. "He is supposed to reject or given assent to a Bill. If the rejected Bill is adopted by the legislature again, he will have no option but to give assent. Unnecessarily, he has been seeking clarifications thus delaying the Bill."

It may also be mentioned here that the Governor has cleared 32 Bills between January and April, 2025.

Thaawarchand Gehlot

'A warning bell'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said that the Supreme Court's judgment declaring the Governor's prolonged inaction on Bills passed by the legislature as 'erroneous and illegal' a "warning bell" to the Centre.

The Supreme Court judgment has cleared all doubts on the limits of the Governor's powers and responsibilities, and the Governors in non-BJP state governments have been acting as 'puppets' in the hands of the Union government, he said. This has reduced the dignity of the Raj Bhavan as well, the Chief Minister said in a statement.

1 Bills sent to Governor's office for assent (As of April 7, 2025)

- The Bengaluru Palace (Utilisation and Regulation of Land) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill, 2024
- The Karnataka Tax on Profession, Trades, Callings and Employments (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The Karnataka Public Service Commission (Conduct of Business and Additional Functions) (Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The Universities of Agricultural Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2025

2 Bills sent back by Governor for clarifications that are pending with administrative departments

- The Karnataka Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill 2024 (passed in the July session 2024)
- The Karnataka Souharda Sahakari (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (passed in the July session 2024)
- Gadag Betagiri Business, Culture and Exhibition Authority Bill, 2023 (passed in the July session 2024)
- The Karnataka Hindu Religious Institution and Charitable Endowments (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (passed in the July session 2024)
- The Mysuru Development Authority Bill 2024 (passed in the Belgaum session December 2024)
- Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (passed in the Belgaum session December 2024)
- The Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024 (passed in the March session 2025)

3 Bills reserved by the Governor for the assent of the President

- Code of Civil procedure (Karnataka Amendment Bill) 2024 (passed in the Belgaum session)
- The Karnataka Mineral Rights Tax Bill, 2024 (passed in the Belgaum session 2024)
- The Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025
- The Notaries (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2025

Socio-economic survey on agenda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The vexed Socio Economic and Education Survey (Caste Census) conducted by Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, headed by H. Kantharaj, is likely to be discussed in the Cabinet. Sources aware of the development said that the subject for discussion on the survey is listed on the agenda.

While the Congress in its manifesto had promised to implement the caste census, the issue had divided the party leaders as those from the dominant land owning Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities opposed the census findings, that are yet to be made public, terming it 'unscientific'. Over the last few months, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had on multiple occasions announced that the survey report would be discussed, but nothing has emerged.

Valmiki corporation scam: Governor provides sanction for prosecution of Nagendra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has granted sanction for prosecution of former Scheduled Tribes Welfare Minister B. Nagendra in the Valmiki corporation scam.

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), that probed the case, arrested Mr. Nagendra and had filed a chargesheet in September 2024 listing him as Accused no. 1 in the case. It had filed the chargesheet, pending sanction for prosecution by the Governor. The court was yet to take cognisance of the chargesheet as the Governor, the competent authority in the case, was yet to sanction prosecution against the former Minister.

B. Nagendra

Sources said now that the Governor has granted sanction for prosecution against the former Minister, the court will soon take cognisance of the chargesheet and may proceed to frame charges.

However, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Karnataka State Police, that probed the scam based on whose FIR the ED registered an ECIR regarding the scam, did not find the Minister culpable and has not named him as an accused in their chargesheet regarding the scam. This, the former Minister hopes, will give him a reprieve against the ED proceedings, sources close to him said.

The ED chargesheet alleges that ₹89.62 crore of the corporation were allegedly diverted into 18 fake accounts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana at the behest of Mr. Nagendra. These funds were then layered through fake and shell accounts, with cash and bullion distributed among the accused, ED alleged. It also alleged that the diverted funds were used to fund the Lok Sabha elections in Ballari in 2024.

Only spoke about poor quality of construction, claims Rayaraddi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Senior Congress MLA Basavaraja Rayaraddi, economic advisor to the Chief Minister, on Wednesday clarified that the media has wrongly interpreted his statement on Karnataka being 'No. 1 in corruption' and he had spoken only about the poor quality of construction of government buildings in the Kalyana Karnataka region and not about corruption.

Addressing the media here, Mr. Rayaraddi said he had not issued any press release or statement about corruption in the State. However, he had said that owing to poor quality of construction, government buildings were collapsing after a decade, compared to those in the earlier days when buildings were used for five to six decades.

'Congress introduced transparency'

Noting that he made the remark on the poor quality of construction work at a meeting of the D.M. Nanjundappa Committee on Regional Imbalances in Koppal on Tuesday, the former Minister said corruption was rampant in the BJP government. The Congress government has introduced transparency in transfer of categories of employees in all departments, he said.

However, BJP leaders and MLAs hit out at the Congress government and said Mr. Rayaraddi 'spoke the truth' about the Siddaramaiah-led government.

National Survey Day today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Survey, Revenue, and Land Records, will host the 36th National Survey Day celebration on Thursday, on the grand steps of Vidhana Soudha.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the event, where he will highlight the department's key achievements.

During the ceremony, he will launch village survey maps and release the handbook for the Swamitva Scheme. He will unveil a compilation of circulars from the Survey Department and a commemorative booklet marking the occasion of the 36th National Survey Day.

The Chief Minister will also distribute modern survey equipment, such as Rovers, to the surveyors to enhance the department's capabilities.

Former Shivamogga DCC Bank chairman arrested by ED in ₹62.77 crore gold loan scam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru Zonal Office, has arrested R.M. Manjunatha Gowda, former Chairman of Shivamogga District Co-operative Central (DCC) Bank, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

He was taken into custody on Wednesday, for his alleged involvement in a money laundering case linked to a multi-crore gold loan scam. Following his arrest, Mr. Gowda was produced before the Special Court for PMLA cases, which granted him 14-day ED custody, according to a release.

Search operations

On Tuesday, the ED conducted search operations at multiple locations in Shivamogga and Bengaluru, including the City Branch of the Shivamogga DCC Bank. Digital and physical evidence was seized during these searches, the directorate said.

Large-scale misappropriation

"The investigations revealed large-scale misappropriation of bank funds at the City Branch, allegedly orchestrated by branch manager B. Shobha on instructions from Gowda. As per the chargesheet filed by the Lokayukta Police, Ms. Sobha, in conspiracy with other co-accused, diverted a significant amount of bank funds, totalling ₹62.77 crore (approximately). The modus operandi involved opening fraudulent gold loan accounts without the knowledge of the individual account holders, utilising fake, fabricated, and forged documents," ED said.

"The ED investigation revealed that Proceeds of Crime generated by Sobha in conspiracy with other co-accused from the commission of scheduled offense were laundered and also handed over to Mr. Gowda. He had acquired various movable and immovable properties and was found to be in possession of various such properties generated from the offence. As per the chargesheet filed by the Lokayukta Police, he was also found to be in possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income," the ED statement said.

Kethaganahalli land encroachment row: Tahsildar to give all documents to HDK

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the tahsildar, Ramanagara, to, give all documents, based on which a notice was issued, to Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy within a week, to show-cause why a criminal case should not be registered against him for allegedly encroaching upon certain portions of government lands in survey numbers 7, 8, and 9 of the Kethaganahalli village of Bidadi hobli of Ramanagara taluk.

Meanwhile, the court directed Mr. Kumaraswamy to reply to the notice within two weeks on receipt of documents from the tahsildar.

Justice N.S. Sanjay Gowda passed the interim order on Tuesday while adjourning till April 22 the further hearing on the petition filed by Mr. Kumaraswamy, who had questioned the legality of the notice issued by the tahsildar on March 18.

H.D. Kumaraswamy

The court also said that there is no need to stay the further proceedings on the notice issued by the tahsildar as it was obvious that the tahsildar would consider the objection to be filed by Mr. Kumaraswamy before passing any order for eviction.

The High Court has also directed H.D. Kumaraswamy to reply to the notice within two weeks on receipt of documents from the tahsildar

What the petition says

It has been contended in the petition that the tahsildar had no jurisdiction to issue notice as such a power is vested only with the Assistant Commissioner under the provisions of the Karnataka Land Revenue (KLR) Act, 1964. It was also alleged in the petition that the tahsildar had not provided all the documents, which were referred to in the notice, to Mr. Kumaraswamy.

Mr. Kumaraswamy had contended that he had purchased several lands in Kethaganahalli village during 1985-87 through different registered sale deeds, and all documents clearly and categorically substantiate that he, his vendors had valid right, title and interest over these lands. Mr. Kumaraswamy is in lawful possession of these lands for the past four decades, it was stated in the petition.

Meanwhile, the court permitted Mr. Kumaraswamy to challenge the legality of certain amendments made to the KLR Act during 2024-25.

ITI to operate network centre for BharatNet phase-III project in Himachal Pradesh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru-based ITI Ltd., India's first post-Independence PSU and telecom manufacturing company, commenced work on the State Network Operations Center (S-NOC) of the monumental BharatNet Phase-III Project at Solan in Himachal Pradesh in coordination with BSNL.

According to ITI, S-NOC is a centralised location where ITI Limited will monitor and manage the performance, security, and availability of the project's network infrastructure, ensuring efficient delivery of services.

The project would be implemented by ITI Limited in Himachal Pradesh and under this scheme, 3,615 gram panchayats would be connected to 91 block headquarters via 10 Gbps bandwidth, which would be connected to the BSNL IP-MPLS Ring Network. This connectivity would be extended to 15,538 villages across the State. Approximately 20,000 km of fiber-optic cables (OFC) would be laid across Himachal Pradesh for this project.

KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Grameenabhivriddhi Bhavana, 4th & 5th Floor, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.
No.: KRIDL/WKS/CMT/TND/2025-26 Date: 08.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The applications are invited for the supply of CEMENT to KRIDL sub divisions in Karnataka from the manufacturers with a turnover stipulated in table below per annum in last 3 financial years. Interested manufacturers can participate in the tender and they can view, download and apply only through E-Governance Secretariat New website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** e-Proc Helpdesk Contact: 080-46010000/080-68948777

Sl. No.	Particulars of Tender	Qty. put to tender in bags	Approx. amount put to tender in Rs. lakhs	EMD amount in Rs. Lakhs	Required turnover per Annum of Firm Rs. in Lakhs
1	**Tender Part-I,** Bengaluru & BBMP Zone	225000	767.20	11.51	2455.00
2	**Tender Part-II,** Central (Chitradurga) Zone	380000	1292.70	15.00	4136.00
3	**Tender Part-III,** Mysuru Zone	370000	1276.55	15.00	4085.00
4	**Tender Part-IV,** Belagavi Zone	285000	879.60	13.19	2815.00
5	**Tender Part-V,** Kalaburagi Zone	240000	743.78	11.16	2380.00

Period of Supply three months from the date of supply order. Last date and time for enquiry is **07.05.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs.** Last date and time for receipt of tender: **07.05.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs.** Date of opening the Technical bid is on **09.05.2025 at 15.00 Hrs.** Date of opening the Financial bid is on **12.05.2025 at 15.00 Hrs.**

For further details please contact: Chief Engineer (Bengaluru), KRIDL, Bengaluru-09.
Ph : 080-28015604. E-mail: ddworkskridl@gmail.com
For information please log on to: www.kridl.org.in

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Bengaluru)

KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Grameenabhivriddhi Bhavana, 4th & 5th Floor, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.
No.: KRIDL/WKS/STL/TND/2025-26 Date: 08.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The applications are invited for the supply of TMT Steel Bars as per IS 1786 FE 550 to KRIDL (KLAC) sub divisions throught Karnataka from the Manufacturers/Primary Manufacturers with turnover stipulated in table below per annum in last 3 financial years. The firm shall have satisfactory completion of similar supplies of 1000 MT in the last three financial years to the Government Departments/Semi-Government Departments/Public sector undertakings and Public & Private Firms/Companies. Interested manufacturers can participate in the tender and they can view, download and apply only through E-Governance Secretariat New website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Contact: 080-46010000/080-68948777

Sl. No.	Particulars of Tender	Qty. in MT	Approx. amount Rs. in lakhs	EMD amount Rs. in Lakhs	Required turnover per Annum of Firm Rs. in Lakhs
1	**Tender Part-I,** Bengaluru & BBMP Zone	501	278.34	4.18	891.00
2	**Tender Part-II,** Mysuru Zone	619	346.82	5.20	1110.00
3	**Tender Part-III,** Central (Chitradurga) Zone	780	438.82	6.58	1404.00
4	**Tender Part-IV,** Belagavi Zone	715	422.56	6.34	1352.00
5	**Tender Part-V,** Kalaburagi Zone	385	225.99	3.39	723.00

"One firm is eligible to participate in maximum of three parts of tender only, out of 5 parts mentioned in the above table".

Period of Supply three months from the date of supply order. Last date and time for enquiry is **07.05.2025 up to 14.00 Hrs.** Last date and time for receipt of tender: **07.05.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs.** Date of opening the Technical bid is on **09.05.2025 at 15.00 Hrs.** Date of opening the Financial bid is on **12.05.2025 at 15.00 Hrs.**

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Ph : 080-28015604. E-mail: ddworkskridl@gmail.com
For information please log on to: www.kridl.org.in

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Bengaluru)

Will the new garbage tax give a push to wet waste composting in Bengaluru?

Right now, at the ward-level, barring a few bio-methanisation plants and lane composters, decentralised composting is insignificant compared to the huge amount of waste generated

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

Mountains of muck, those stinky black spots of mixed garbage, are rising across the city again. But even as the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) claims to tackle them with a steep 36% garbage tax, a workable way out remains largely ignored: Wet waste composting. Localised ward-level composting with a multi-stakeholder approach could potentially solve half the problem, and the time is now.

Bengaluru generates an estimated 6,000 Metric Tonnes (MT) of solid waste every day, and almost 2,800 MT is wet waste. The lack of a city-wide, well-structured composting mechanism has meant that a big chunk of the wet waste gets mixed up and eventually ends up in landfills. Can the success stories from many apartment complexes and a recent public-private project involving the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) be replicated and scaled up?

Dubbed as the Solid Waste Management (SWM) user fee, the BBMP's garbage tax is bound to generate an additional annual revenue of ₹750 crore. The bulk of this money will go for the collection, transport, processing and disposal of waste. But SWM experts ask why the same money can't instead be used to buy compost bins for all the three million households in the city and tackle the mega problem at source? Part of it, they say, could also build a robust network of ward-level composting centres.

Ideally, hyper local composting with active involvement and monitoring by ward committees should have had a working system by now. But this has been a non-starter without an elected BBMP Council and corporators. The best bet now could be emulating the composting success models, now up and running in many apartments. Big complexes that generate more than 150kgs of wet waste daily are composting through internal converters and using it as manure for gardens.

A composting unit on the terrace of an apartment in Domlur. The space requirement is small. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Compost-based gardens

Big government corporations could show the way too. The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has launched one such initiative by introducing soil-less, compost-based gardens in the median space between the Namma Metro pillars. The project, a public-private initiative, involves Pelican Kenterra and Wipro Foundation. Instead of soil mined from fertile farmlands and mountains, the method utilises reject compost and garden waste from commercial establishments and residential communities.

Under the PPP project, a trial stretch of 100 metres has been installed by Kenterra near the Manjunath Nagar Metro Station. The medians between five Metro pillars were filled with over 20 MT of compost converted to soil-less gardening material. To fill the trial stretch, about 600 cubic metres of natural compost and garden waste were sourced from the Wipro forest area in Sarjapur. The median space was then planted with ornamental plants. An additional five km of Metro medians will now get the same compost gardening treatment between HSR Layout and Bellandur.

The technology to convert biodegradable waste into soil-less planting material had won the Swachh Technology Challenge. Here's an explanation by the start-up: "All biodegradable matter, even the toughest of it, coconut shell, will eventually degrade to create a soil-less planting media into which plants can be simply inserted. No soil is required. The technology involves using microbial inoculums for degrading the lingo-cellulolytic matrix of plants and the protein, fat, and carbohydrate matrix of the animal residue into a medium with low electrical conductivity. Plants will grow as in soil in this medium."

These out-of-the-box solutions need to be scaled up to make a bigger impact. But at the ward-level, barring a few bio-methanisation plants and lane composters such as in HSR Layout, decentralised composting is insignificant compared to the huge amount of waste generated, says Dr. Shanthi Tummala, a founding member of the HSR Citizen's Forum and a member of the Solid Waste Management Round Table (SWMRT).

Trees being replenished with excess compost prepared by apartment residents in Domlur. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

(Above and left) Glimpses from HSR layout SwachaGraha Kalika Kendra, a learning centre for Solid Waste Management. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pilot projects

A good number of apartments have a composting system in place, some activated by eco-conscious residents and some following the mandated rule for bulk generators. The lane composting initiative in HSR Layout, funded by CSR initiatives, has been successful. "The whole lane wastes are being processed by those composters. But all these are pilot projects, which the government should scale up," she says. There is no dearth of funds, says Dr. Shanthi, while seeking more transparency from the government in how the additional revenue through the SWM user fee will be utilized. "We really appreciate this fee because every citizen should be responsible for the waste they generate. But after paying the user fee, what change will the citizens see?" she wonders.

Need for transparency

Paying citizens demand transparency and accountability, and wonder whether the BBMP will set up a monitoring system to track segregation at source and whether the collection is regular. "Besides, what will be the incentive for people who are consciously composting? How is the exemption planned? Is there a plan? Unfortunately, there is no strategy shown, nothing is being discussed with the citizens. They don't invite eco-conscious citizens to share their ideas. They can't make decisions inside four walls. People on the ground should be involved."

SWMRT wants the government to utilize part of the SWM user fee to set up a bio-methanisation plant at least at the constituency level. As she elaborates, "The additional funds should be used to ensure a dry waste collection centre in each of the 243 wards with proper infrastructure and ensure that it functions. If these are set up on a war-footing, the majority of the waste going to the landfills will be cut down."

At the forefront of the composting campaign in the city, environment changemaker and founder, Beautiful Bharat, Odette Katrak has ensured that no wet waste gets out of her 37-flat apartment complex in Domlur. The 15-20 kgs of wet waste generated is composted within the complex for the apartment garden, and the excess compost is used to enrich the avenue trees and soil in the layout. Odette, who conducts monthly cleanup drives, draws attention to a related problem: "Many people put extra cooked food into the compost system because they don't want to keep it till the next day. Why compost good food, when you can give it to someone else?" she asks.

The worst case, says Odette, is food waste dumped in plastic covers on the roadside. "We see it every day in every part of the city. That rotting waste in plastic will generate methane and they are all collected in tractors and dumped in landfills. It is a very huge contributor to climate change."

Dangerous leaf-burning

Leaf composting is a proven eco-sensitive way to replenish trees. But Odette cites leaf-burning as an issue that needs serious attention. "In Domlur, we used to have a leaf composter unit set up through a corporate CSR initiative. When it stopped, there was heavy burning of dry leaves. The pourakarmikas would sweep and put the leaf pile in a corner. Someone comes and lights it up, leading to air pollution and emanating carbon monoxide due to incomplete combustion. These are very harmful, and can cause lung cancer and other problems. Heart patients and asthma patients are at higher risk."

Under its green initiative, the BBMP is now in the process of setting up 100 leaf compost units in many of the 1,280 parks under its jurisdiction. On-site composting of the fallen dry leaves would be used for plant and tree maintenance within the parks.

Vi 5G at the Chinnaswamy Stadium

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vi has brought its 5G services to the Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, ensuring that cricket lovers in Bengaluru can experience ultra-fast speeds while soaking in live cricket action. Vi has strengthened its network infrastructure to provide seamless 5G connectivity at the stadium.

Vi has also deployed additional 5G network sites and strengthened its network with technologies like BTS and Massive MIMO, according to a release by the company.

Customers with 5G-enabled handsets can experience unlimited Vi 5G free of cost, by simply switching on 5G usage in their mobile settings.

This 5G- roll out can be experienced by can be experienced by audience in Eden Gardens (Kolkata), Narendra Modi Stadium (Ahmedabad), Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Cricket Stadium (Chandigarh) and many more across India.

Scientists at RRI develop affordable device for preliminary screening of sickle cell disease

According to RRI, the innovative, cost-effective electro-fluidic micropore device, quantifies whole-cell stiffness with high-resolution and high-throughput, with specific focus on screening for SCD

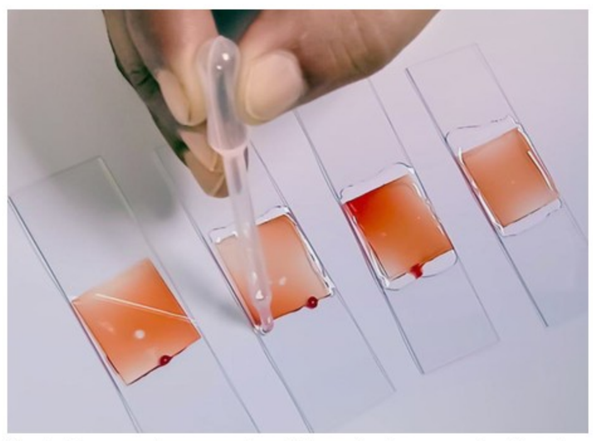
The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Scientists at Raman Research Institute (RRI) have developed an affordable electro-fluidic device that aids in preliminary screening of Sickle Cell Disease (SCD).

According to RRI, the innovative, cost-effective electro-fluidic micropore device, quantifies whole-cell stiffness with high-resolution and high-throughput, with specific focus on screening for SCD.

"This technology has the potential to change preliminary diagnostic methods for blood disorders," RRI said.

Gautam Soni, S. Kaushik, and A. Mishra from the Soft Condensed Matter Theme at RRI, Bengaluru developed this device and R. Ross, S. Srivastava, and C. R. Ross from St. Johns Medical College Hospital, Bengaluru helped with testing the device on real-world samples by comparing blood cells from SCD patients to that of healthy donors.



The testing was done on real-world samples by comparing blood cells from SCD patients to that of healthy donors. GETTY IMAGES

"This new technology makes high-resolution measurement on changes in RBC physiology and cell stiffness and connects it to the underlying disease-state" said Gautam Soni, Lead Investigator.

RRI said that the researchers were able to create a system that effectively differentiates SCD and healthy donor RBCs, due to differences in their inherent stiffness with high precision.

RRI said that the researchers were able to create a system that effectively differentiates SCD and healthy donor RBCs

"They studied the samples in free-flight and constricted-flight modes to measure cell volume and stiffness, respectively. They used Latrunculin A (an actin inhibitor, that reduces cell stiffness) treated RBCs, to first quantify the correlation between flight time in the micropore and cellular stiffness," RRI said.

Using the above methodology, they showed that their device allows for the rapid alternative detection of mechanical abnormalities in RBCs and hence, can act as a preliminary screening device for multiple blood conditions.

"The portability and cost-efficiency of the device would make it an attractive option for mass-screening leading to early detection of SCD in both rural and urban areas of the country," RRI said.

Cell stiffness

It further said whole cell stiffness, being a ubiquitous parameter for cell's health, may be applied beyond SCD screening, such as, in areas of tumor cell detection and veterinary blood disorders.

"The device principle has possible non-medical applications as well, for example, in improving the hydrogel materials used in drug delivery systems," RRI said.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 10, 1975

High Court not for Separate Bench in Hubli

Bangalore, April 9: The Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs informed the Legislative Council yesterday that the State High Court was not in favour of having a separate Bench of its court at Hubli. Replying to the question of Mr. S.R. Bommai (Cong-O), Mr. Urs said that the issue was a complicated one as the President had to give assent to such a move after consulting the State Judiciary. He said that the Government was aware of the petition submitted by 90 legislators of the State demanding a separate Bench at Hubli and said the issue had not been closed as far as the Government was concerned. The Government was also fully aware of the plight of people of North Karnataka region.

Desai's Fast: Walk out in Council

Bangalore, April 9: The entire Opposition in the Legislative Council, led by Mr. Ramakrishna Hegde. Leaders staged a walk out to-day, after an unsuccessful attempt to raise a discussion on the situation arising out of the indefinite fast, by Mr. Morarji Desai. Mr. Hegde, through an adjournment motion, sought a discussion on the subject which he said was of national importance.

GIG GUIDE

Journeys set to jazz

The city's music lovers are in for a treat with a wide range of world music to choose from this weekend

Anurag Tagat

Haiku

April 13, 6 pm onwards
The Blue Room, Jayanagar
Entry: ₹750, via Skillboxes.com

Among the newer bands on the block, jazz, pop and Carnatic-inspired six-member band Haiku will take the stage at The Blue Room for an intimate gig this week. Promising "textured and evocative songs" according to the event's description, the band has previously been rehearsing and recording an EP which includes songs such as 'Cycle Breaker'.

Comprising Tanvi Rao on keys, Daniel Sundaram on bass, Om Iyer on drums, Mihir Rajeev on violin and vocalists Parmita Mukerji and Sukanya Kurpad, Haiku say their music is shaped by a love for contemporary jazz and odd-time signatures. The event description adds, "Exploring themes like self-discovery and memories, Haiku creates a space where introspection and clarity meet, offering a fresh perspective on the complexity of life and the journey within."

Aadya Jaswal

April 11, 7 pm onwards
Ram's Musique Experience, MG Road
Entry: ₹350, via app.venn.buzz

New Delhi singer-songwriter Aadya Jaswal's debut album, *Sanctuary,* is described by the artiste as a haven and it is perhaps something it can be for everyone who hears the eight-track record for the first time. Aadya brings that intimacy to Ram's Musique Experience, previously only known as a vinyl record store for music aficionados that is also opening up for live shows now.

Jaswal says, "My debut album *Sanctuary* chronicles my musings of growing up. Through its eight songs it explores imagination, desire, fear, curiosity, in the tangled ways in which they coexist. I've been on a small, four-city tour for the album, and in my final show in Bengaluru, I'll be taking the audience through my journey – playing songs from the album as well as some unreleased originals."

Daisho, Disco Puppet, Yuhina

April 11, 8 pm onwards
The Burrow, Off Racecourse Road, Gandhi Nagar
Entry: ₹300, via Skillboxes.com

Started in September last year, community initiative Nineoeight have hosted a handful of shows in Bengaluru and Goa, all with an eye on the city's "ever-evolving sonic identity". For their upcoming edition at The Burrow, the talent pool expands further into experimental and trip-hop territory, featuring Gangtok-origin, city-based artist Yuhina, experimental artist Disco Puppet and bankable selector Daisho, alongside Nineoeight's resident DJs warming up the crowd.

An event description from the organisers states, "Let us paint you a picture: ethereal meditative soundscapes, choppy layered harmonic ballads, genre flipping danceable grooves, bass first club shakers."

Nineoeight states that Yuhina will bring "her introspection invoking live storytelling combining ethereal vocals with powerful electronic paintings". Disco Puppet offers a "signature strain of electronica colliding lo-fi toy synth melancholia with a heavy dose of harmonised distorted vocal journalling" and Daisho's set promises "genre and pace bending DJ sets that explores the fringes of what's considered dance music".

Quadro Nuevo

April 11 and 12, 9:30 pm onwards
Windmills,Whitefield
Entry:₹750 (standing), ₹2,000 (sitting), via windmills-india.com

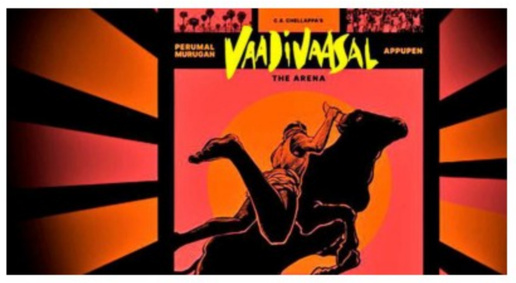
German jazz ensemble Quadro Nuevo are the latest international jazz act to hit the city this weekend at Windmills. It was founded in 1996 by childhood friends Mulo Francel, who plays saxophone, clarinet and mandolin in the band and DD Lowka helming bass and percussion. The lineup is completed by virtuoso artistes Andreas Hinterseher who plays the accordion, trumpet, bandoneon and vibrandoneon, and pianist Chris Gall. An event description adds, "Quadro Nuevo has played across continents, from the streets of Istanbul to Carnegie Hall. With their seamless blend of jazz, world music, and Mediterranean soul, the quartet has received two ECHO Jazz Awards, a Gold Disc, and the prestigious German Record Critics' Award."

The band has said in their statement, "Music offers a positive world, especially in times of crisis." The description goes on to add, "The group brings infectious energy and soulful spontaneity to every set. Their latest album, *HAPPY Deluxe*, is a sonic travelogue inspired by their journeys through Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro – a vivid celebration of rhythm, joy, and life's vibrant possibilities."

CITYBEATS

Just jive

APRIL 11, 12
Get off your seat and on your feet with this two-day dance workshop by Connie & Danny's School of Dance. Two evenings of your time are all that is needed to ensure you never have to sit on the sidelines of a dance floor.
At The Raft Koramangala. From 7.30pm-9pm on April 11, 7pm-8.30pm on April 12. ₹1500 per person, ₹2000 for couples. Call 81977 15790.



Meet the authors

APRIL 12
Author Perumal Murugan and graphic novelist Appupen have teamed up to adapt CS Chellappa's *Vaadivaasal* into a graphic novel. Launched earlier this year, both Perumal and Appupen will discuss the book about the sport of jallikattu, with author Samhita Arni moderating.
At Champaca, Vasanth Nagar, from 5.30pm. Entry free.

Musical interlude

APRIL 13
Bangalore School of Music's Chamber Orchestra is collaborating with pianist Marialena Fernandes and Vienna-based Motus String Quartet to present an evening of classical music, with pieces from Mendelssohn, Bach, Haydn and Mozart.
At Bangalore International Centre, at 4pm and 6:30pm. Tickets from ₹699 available on district.in and at BSM.

Band of brothers Fabian, Alejandro and Daniel Manzano of Boyce Avenue. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sibling revelry

Ruth Dhanaraj

If you have ever preferred a cover version over the original, chances are it was by Boyce Avenue. The band comprising brothers Alejandro, Daniel and Fabian Manzano, will be in India this weekend and though they made a name for themselves with their rendition of popular numbers, the trio have three original albums and singles to their credit as well.

Speaking over phone, before setting off on their tour, Daniel's excitement is palpable. "We've been touring for almost 20 years and this will be our third visit to India. We love coming there."

Boyce Avenue, which come to India courtesy BookMyShow, derived their name from two streets the brothers lived on as children.

Daniel says their "origin story is quite simple, because we're brothers". At the same time, he admits their foray into music was rather "atraditional in a sense". "We started into music late since we were all interested in sports. Alejandro, our lead singer and youngest brother, did not start playing music or pick up a guitar till he was about 13. I was 19 then, so that was a late start. But, Alejandro was so passionate about it, in two years, he was an exceptional guitarist."

Daniel says that over the next few years, they worked on covers, "occasionally writing an original and playing in little pubs and college towns, trying to do whatever we could".

"It wasn't until MySpace came up and we started posting our music online, that we realised it would have a broader reach. You have to remember this was a different time, a different era," he says, adding that it was the band's transition to YouTube that truly boosted their profile.

It is more of a singles climate right now, and fans can expect a few towards the end of the year

"Our very first videos garnered over 100,000 views and soon we were hitting it out of the park with every post. We've never looked back since."

While Daniel is the percussionist and Fabian and Alejandro play the guitar, all three lend their voices to the songs. And they do the same when it comes penning the lyrics and composing music.

"We all write our music and lyrics, though Alejandro is the most prolific – it comes easier to him. We've also had quite a few songs where we've collaborated. I'll do the music and chorus, Alejandro does the verses and Fabian sings. Its different every time and we've worked through all the various combinations between the three of us."

"We have our own ideas, develop them as far as we can, and then bring everything to the band. It is a process that works for us."

When asked about the possibility of another album from Boyce Avenue (their last one – *Road Less Travelled* – was released in 2016), Daniel says, "I believe the album is a bit on its way out and it is a sad reality for me, because I still love them. But, we understand it is more of a singles climate right now, and fans can expect a few towards the end of the year or maybe early next year."

Talking about their India tour, Daniel says their tight schedule barely allows for sightseeing or the chance to collaborate with local artistes, so they make do with "enjoying the local cuisine and the local culture".

With World Jazz Day round the corner and given that their tone of music is ballad-like, with a clean, quiet sound which would blend well with that genre, Daniel says, "It is not something we grew up listening to, so we don't naturally gravitate towards it. But, it is not inconceivable that a song or two of that nature could slip in."

Boyce Avenue performs on April 11 at Phoenix Marketcity from 7pm. Tickets on BookMyShow

Modern rhythm 'n' fluid kinetics

Power in touch Shruti Maria Datar (below), scenes from C.Tactile. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shilpa Anandraj

A contemporary dance performance *C. Tactile* will be presented in Bengaluru. Conceptualised and choreographed by Shruti Maria Datar, a Mumbai-based independent artiste, the performance aims to explore what it means to embody a female identity in a world where the male gaze shapes perceptions, Shruti says over the phone from Mumbai amidst her dance rehearsals.

"The dance invites audiences to witness the dancers use their bodies as canvases of resistance, vulnerability, and resilience, embracing the contradictions of touch as both an experience and an act of intervention."

C. Tactile is a full-length contemporary duet, created with movement collaborator Melitta Dsouza. Shruti will be joined on stage by Nishashmita, and the duo will perform to pre-recorded music, an original composition by Adriel George.

The dance is produced by The Movement Arts Co, an initiative which functions across the three verticals – through dance programs in schools, Viewpoint (a crowdfunded platform for emerging choreographers) and supporting the creation and showcase of artistic projects in Mumbai, explains Shruti, who has had her professional dance training in the contemporary genre from Danscentrumjette, Belgium.

A trained Bharatnatyam dancer, Shruti, uses movement to explore themes of identity, culture and human emotion.

Though she finds contemporary dance a form that gives her the freedom to explore movement and abstract concepts, she also believes Bharatanatyam has not restricted her.

"It has given me a strong foundation as Bharatanatyam involves gestures, hand and feet movements, abhinaya."

When people think of contemporary dance, Shruti says, they strip the form off many of these classical attributes. "As I draw from my personal experiences, Bharatantayam is very much a part of that process. Hence, I include gestural and facial expression to my contemporary work as well."

Her dance concepts are always abstract, Shruti says.

"The beauty of contemporary dance is that the audience is free to perceive it according to their interpretation. This way, there is a scope for the audience to connect to the same concept on different levels."

Her movement vocabulary, says the dancer, is based on her memories, identity and experiences of being a woman in a metro, navigating the world.

When creating *C. Tactile*, Shruti says she was drawn to the contradictions inherent in the act of touch.

"It has the power to nurture and to wound, to connect and to isolate. The choreography emerged as an ongoing conversation between the dancers and the concept of embodiment. We explored the questions as to how the body responds to being seen, touched, or even anticipated as an object of touch."

The dance, Shruti says covers all aspects of touch from a gender perspective, personal as well as from a larger socio-political perspective.

C.Tactile will be presented at Medai-The Stage on April 11, 7pm.

Tirupati-Katpadi railway line to be doubled at ₹1,332 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved the doubling of the Tirupati-Pakala-Katpadi railway line, spanning 104 km in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, at a cost of approximately ₹1,332 crore.

The project will "improve connectivity to the Tirumala Venkateswara Temple, as well to other prominent destinations such as Sri Kalahasti Shiva Temple, Kanipakam Vinayaka Temple and the Chandragiri Fort, attracting pilgrims and tourists from across the country", a spokesperson from the Indian Railways said.

400 villages to benefit

The project covering three districts in the two States will enhance connectivity to 400 villages and benefit about 14 lakh people.

The Tirupati-Katpadi section is also an essential route for transportation of coal, agricultural commodities, cement and other minerals. The capacity augmentation work will result in additional freight traffic to the tune of four million tonnes per annum, the spokesperson added.

"The enhanced line capacity will improve mobility, providing enhanced efficiency and service reliability for the Indian Railways. The multi-tracking proposal will ease operations and reduce congestion, providing the much-required infrastructural development on the busiest sections across Indian Railways," the spokesperson said.

The project is the result of the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity, aimed at ensuring seamless movement of people, goods and services.

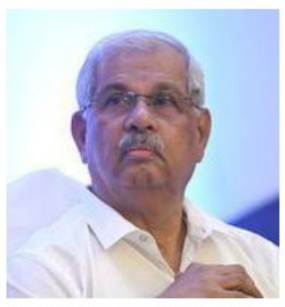
Kerala hopes to get nod of Governor on six new Bills

The State is expecting the process to be smooth with SC recently asking the Governors to act within the Constitutional framework while considering the Bills passed by the State Legislatures

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

Kerala hopes to get the six Bills that were recently passed by the Assembly approved by Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar without any hassle in the wake of the Supreme Court spelling out the options available for the Governors on Bills passed by the State Legislatures.

The Bills that would be submitted for the Governor's clearance include the Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2025, the University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, the Kerala State Elderly Commission Bill, 2025, the University Laws (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2025, the Kerala Sports (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024.


Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

The submission of Bills for the gubernatorial clearance has become a relaxed affair for the State government this time, following the Supreme Court intervention in the Tamil Nadu case, asking the Governors to act within the Constitutional framework while considering the Bills passed by the State Legislatures.

The top court, which set a timeline for the Governors to act on the Bills, also reminded that the Governor's role under Article 200 of the Constitution was restricted to the three options of granting assent, withholding assent, or reserving the Bill for the consideration of the President.

The top court directive in the Tamil Nadu case has found resonance in Kerala, which too had moved the Supreme Court against former Governor Arif Mohammed Khan's act of inordinately holding back a few Bills passed by the State Assembly.

The State had also moved the Supreme Court against President Droupadi Murmu withholding assent for four Bills passed by the Kerala Legislature without disclosing any reasons.

The fate of the six Bills will be known within a few months as the Supreme Court has set the timeframe for the Governors to act.

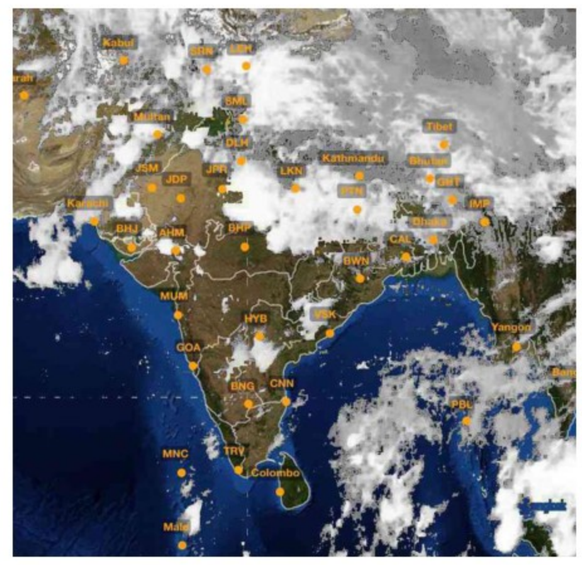
In the event of Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar deciding to withhold assent or reserve the Bill for the President, such decisions will have to be taken within one month of the Bill reaching him.

If he decides to withhold the assent for the Bills, they have to be returned to the State legislature within three months. The Governors will also reserve the Bill for the President within three months of his receiving it.

The top court has also directed that the Governors shall grant assent to the Bills, which are repassed and re-presented by the legislature within one month.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Bihar, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.6	23.0	Kozhikode	4	35.1	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	43.2	27.6	Kurnool	0.5	38.7	25.2
Aizawl	—	35.0	19.0	Lucknow	—	38.4	26.8
Allahabad	—	40.6	25.2	Madurai	—	35.9	26.7
Bengaluru	—	34.2	22.0	Mangaluru	0.8	34.1	23.5
Bhopal	—	41.0	24.8	Mumbai	—	33.7	26.5
Bhubaneswar	—	35.1	24.4	Mysuru	—	39.0	23.0
Chandigarh	—	38.7	23.3	New Delhi	—	40.5	25.6
Chennai	—	35.2	27.0	Patna	—	34.8	27.5
Coimbatore	—	35.6	24.6	Port Blair	—	32.5	27.6
Dehradun	—	35.5	21.1	Puducherry	—	34.2	25.2
Gangtok	11	19.9	13.9	Pune	—	42.2	26.0
Goa	—	35.0	27.0	Raipur	—	39.0	26.5
Guwahati	—	32.3	22.5	Ranchi	—	35.2	21.8
Hubballi	—	38.0	22.0	Shillong	2	23.2	15.1
Hyderabad	—	36.9	23.4	Shimla	—	28.6	18.5
Imphal	—	31.7	20.3	Srinagar	12	19.0	12.2
Jaipur	—	43.0	28.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.4	26.1
Kochi	27	33.2	24.8	Tiruchi	—	36.9	25.6
Kohima	—	25.2	16.0	Vijayawada	5	35.2	26.2
Kolkata	—	36.0	25.4	Visakhapatnam	17	33.8	23.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.47	..35	.17	...148	...135	
Bengaluru	..—	..25	164	43	69	
Chennai	.10	..14	.70	34	43	
Delhi	.16	..71	.36	...341	...231	
Hyderabad	.21	6	.42	69	74	
Kolkata	.14	..23	.18	51	50	
Lucknow	...6	..38	.22	...223	...230	
Mumbai	...4	..26	.26	59	...114	
Pune	.38	..10	102	...205	.....—	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..27	...6	11	24	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 280 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Pudukottai, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Railways says 'no' to meals and toilet breaks for loco pilots

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Indian Railways has rejected a long-pending demand of loco pilots to provide a break for having meals and attending nature's call while on duty. Accepting the recommendations of a high-level committee, the Railway Board said legislation of breaks for meal and attending nature's call was not operationally feasible.

The decision comes amid increasing train accidents where human error was often attributed as the reason.

The railways also defended the installation of Crew Voice & Video Recording System in loco cabins saying it was not a breach of privacy. The facility would serve the purpose of assistance and support to the crew in post-event analysis.

'No additional work'

"It does not cause any additional workload on the crew, this is only a tool for enhancing operational effectiveness and ensure safe running of trains," the Railway Board said in a communication issued to General Managers of all Zonal Railways.

The All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) condemned the decision of the Railway Board which was based on the recommendations of the multi-disciplinary committee, which the association said, were unrealistic and unfounded. In a letter to the Chief Executive Officer/Chairman Railway Board, AILRSA, secretary-general K.C. James said the outright denial of break for attending nature's call with no toilet facility in locomotives was unacceptable.

AILRSA central organising secretary V. Balachandran said many superfast trains had not-stop run from about 6-7 hours. "The plight of women loco pilots is even worse. On high-density routes, superfast express trains cannot be stopped in mid-section or wayside stations unless it is an emergency," he said.

Mr. Balachandran contended that when a loco pilot is unable to eat or control nature's call, there would be distraction compromising the level of alertness. He said Crew Voice & Video Recording System in loco cabins was nothing but an intrusion of privacy.

Adilabad sizzles at 42.7°C; thunderstorms likely today

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued yellow alert to Hyderabad and several other districts for Thursday, warning of thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds.

According to the IMD bulletin, the extreme weather activity is likely to occur at isolated places across multiple districts including Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanmakonda, Jangaon, Siddipet, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal Malkajgiri, Mahabubnagar, and Nagarkurnool.

For Hyderabad, the forecast for the next 48 hours suggests light to moderate rain or thundershowers, particularly during the evening or night hours. The city is also expected to witness hazy conditions in the morning. Maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to hover around 38°C and 23°C respectively.

Meanwhile, temperatures across the State continued to soar. According to data from the Telangana Development Planning Society (TGDPS), 22 out of 33 districts recorded maximum temperatures above the 40°C mark on Tuesday.

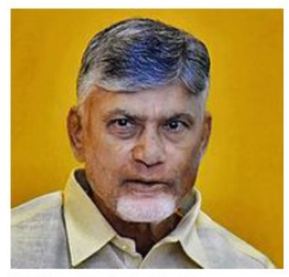
Adilabad was the hottest at 42.7°C, followed by Kumaram Bheem Asifabad at 42°C.

Epic retold

An enactment of *Velakali*, depicting the Pandava-Kaurava war from the Mahabharata, performed in front of Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple in Thiruvananthapuram of Kerala as part of the Panguni festival on Wednesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Use AI to check tax evasion, says Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA


N. Chandrababu Naidu

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has stressed the need to improve tax collection and suggested using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to detect tax evasion.

At a review meeting with revenue-generating departments on Wednesday, Mr. Naidu said the entire process – from tax payments to issuing receipts and notices – should be done online.

Mr. Naidu said AI had identified that over a thousand builders in the State had not registered despite being issued occupancy certificates by the municipal department. The officials should not approve any proposals unless the applicants had mandatory GST registration. It was a classic example of use of the AI technology to detect tax evaders, he said and called for the implementation of similar processes across all revenue departments.

Kerala and T.N. to conduct joint Nilgiri tahr census from April 24

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The survey will cover 89 census blocks in Kerala and 176 in T.N.

Kerala and Tamil Nadu will jointly carry out a Nilgiri tahr census from April 24 to 27. The survey will span 89 census blocks in Kerala and 176 blocks in Tamil Nadu over the four-day period.

Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran, who announced the initiative recently, said the synchronised survey of the mountain ungulate is being conducted to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Eravikulam National Park. The Kerala and Tamil Nadu's Forest departments have begun preparations to conduct the census across the contiguous Nilgiri tahr habitats, covering areas both inside and outside protected forest zones.

According to Chief Wildlife Warden Pramod G. Krishnan, camera traps would be deployed and pellet samples would be collected from selected blocks for scientific analysis, including studies on genetic variation.

In Kerala, the 89 census blocks are located across 20 forest divisions, stretching from Thiruvananthapuram to Wayanad, regions known for their tahr populations.

Around 1,300 census team members will participate in the survey.

The data collected will be analysed using the 'bounded count' method to estimate the population in each block.

Plane spotting, a niche hobby, catches on in Kerala

Anamika, a 17-year-old aviation enthusiast, defies stereotypes as the only female member of Plane Spotters Kerala; its members regularly post airline trivia on its much-followed social media handles, including jetliners' tail fin numbers

Nirmal Harindran
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

They spot the big birds – not the tiny feathered and winged types but the giant ones fashioned from aluminium alloy, powered by thunderous jet engines and fabricated to ferry valuable lives in their cavernous bellies.

Anamika, a 17-year-old Plus Two student and aviation enthusiast in Thiruvananthapuram, is the youngest and perhaps sole female member of the niche group of plane spotters in the State, Plane Spotters Kerala (PSK).

The PSK is a small collective of flying enthusiasts who pursue the "nerdy hobby" of photographing and video recording aircraft landings and takeoffs.

Plane spotters Gopakumar and daughter Anamika, capture an Airbus A320 aircraft in Thiruvananthapuram. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Its members regularly post airline trivia on its much-followed social media handles, including jetliners' tail fin numbers.

PSK enthusiasts share information on groups populated by pilots, air traffic controllers, and other flying enthusiasts worldwide.

Pilots call Ms. Anamika on certain days to request her video recordings of their approach and landing manoeuvres.

PSK enthusiasts also perform a public service by posting information on flight delays and weather online.

Ms. Anamika heads an awareness campaign against littering in the airport vicinity to mitigate the threat of bird hits.

Tensions with security

Nevertheless, plane spotters often find themselves in a tense relationship with airport security. In 2024, Ms. Anamika came under intelligence scrutiny after she posted the picture of Air India One, the customised Boeing 777 aircraft used exclusively by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ms. Anamika's father Gopakumar Mathrika, a plane-spotting veteran, says the first plane he spotted as a child was the Douglas C-47A cargo aircraft that transported *The Hindu* newspaper in the mid-1970s while accompanying his mother to the Shanghumugham Devi temple, which abuts the airport.

For plane spotters, landings and takeoffs are majestic events that mitigate the weight of an earthbound and flightless existence and transiently connect them with the boundless skies.

Legal milestone

Cooperative federalism must guide conduct of Governors

The Supreme Court's judgment on the conduct of Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi is set to have a far-reaching impact on Centre-State relations, underscoring as it does India's federal principles in what are undoubtedly fraught times. The verdict enhances the administrative autonomy of States, and regulates the functioning of constitutional offices, with implications for the entire country. In the case which concerns Mr. Ravi's handling of 10 Bills passed by the State Assembly, the Court has effectively changed how Governors carry out their constitutional responsibilities. The intervention comes at a time when tensions between Governors and governments in States ruled by parties other than the BJP have peaked – especially over issues such as the appointment of Vice-Chancellors (V-Cs) to State-run universities, where Governors serve as Chancellors. It is no coincidence that the Bills at the heart of the case sought to replace the Governor with the State government as the authority for appointing V-Cs. Mr. Ravi had forwarded these Bills to President Droupadi Murmu after they were re-adopted by the State Assembly. The Court held that the Bills were deemed to have received assent. It described the Governor's action of referring the Bills to the President as "not bona fide", and his conduct as "arbitrary, *non est*, and erroneous in law" – language that resembled a performance appraisal of the gubernatorial office. In normal circumstances, such a severe reprimand would have resulted in the resignation of the person whose conduct was under scrutiny: Mr. Ravi. But these are not normal circumstances, and Mr. Ravi was certainly playing the politically partisan role assigned to him by the government at the Centre, led by the BJP, which is inimically disposed to the DMK that is in power in Tamil Nadu. Hindrance was the strategy.

The significance of the judgment goes beyond the censure of a particular Governor. It lays down definite timelines for Governors to act on Bills. It ensures that Governors can no longer indefinitely delay legislation under the pretext of scrutiny or act whimsically or with impunity. The Court has reaffirmed a constitutional principle that has often been undermined: that Raj Bhavans must function with transparency, and accountability. With the legislation now in force, the Tamil Nadu government has the authority to appoint V-Cs and must act swiftly to fill these vacancies in 12 universities, and are made based on merit, integrity, and competence, given past allegations of corruption. This judgment is not merely a legal milestone; it is a call for constitutional morality and cooperative federalism, and restoration of dignity to the office of the Governor, who, as the Court pointed out, is expected to act as friend, philosopher, and guide to the State Cabinet, and not as a blunt instrument of the Centre.

Home and abroad

India must improve research infrastructure to serve its students

The ongoing programme of revoking the visas of foreign students in the U.S., ostensibly for opposing the country's foreign policy, is a direct outcome of the xenophobic tendency in the Trump administration. The danger is that the 'Make America Great Again' movement that propelled Donald Trump into the Presidency may soon permeate deep into campus life too. In any case, the number of Indian students enrolling in U.S. universities has been on a downward trend since last year – even before the drumbeats of hostility started. Indian students are already finding other countries such as Germany attractive for lower costs and greater flexibility to self-fund their education through work. Enrolment figures for September this year will demonstrate how attractive the U.S. still is for Indian students despite the looming cancellation of the Optional Practical Training programme that offered a segue for foreign students to working in the U.S. All this, together with the defunding of research and arm-twisting of universities in a country known to value academic freedom, has indeed lowered, if not upended, the regard that people outside had for the U.S.

Many countries have sought to leverage the decline of the U.S. as a destination for talent. Reports talk about European institutions welcoming disgruntled U.S.-based researchers, ironically noting that scientists and researchers fleeing persecution greatly contributed to American progress in the past. For a while now, Indian returnees have been driven in-part towards a desire to come back home or even serve their motherland. Professional achievement or the opportunity to do high-end research has not always been a big driver towards India attracting back its people. While, outwardly, new vistas have opened, research opportunities have expanded, and the fight for funds is less intense, in part due to the encouragement given to private institutions, much work remains to be done. Loosening up the government's purse strings and goading private institutions to invest in research more may only be the starting point. What often puts off returnees is the daily struggle in India. The struggle not only characterises everyday social life but also the workplace. Collaboration between institutions or even across departments is a tough sell. The suffocating social norms and hierarchies are a downer. Lastly, the academic freedom that Indians are used to enjoying elsewhere will need to be recreated. That would require a complete overhaul in the Indian government's attitude to liberal values and towards foreigners, which often borders on the Trumpian.

Understanding India's China conundrum

M.K. Narayanan

is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

Today's China is evidently not the China of Deng Xiaoping. With the advent of Xi Jinping in 2013, China has changed even more and there is little indication that it has since retracted from this path. On the other hand, it is harking more and more to its past, wallowing in self-pity as a 'wronged' civilisation. As this becomes more pronounced, the need for caution becomes self-evident, at least as far as countries on its borders are concerned. China's border provocations, in the Himalayas for instance, can be traced to its determination to restore the Qing Dynasty frontiers, notwithstanding the evident weakness of these claims.

From skirmishes to some de-escalation

The border skirmishes with India in Depsang (2013), Demchok (2016), Doklam (2017), and Galwan (2020) serve to confirm this hypothesis. The warm sentiments exchanged between leaders of India and China recently, therefore, need to be taken with a great deal of circumspection. Much of the rest of the world, apart from India, has been surprised by the recent outburst of sentiments. Caution is, thus, well merited, and it would be highly optimistic to treat the present as denoting a return to the Hu Jintao period – in the first decade of the century – which was a brief interregnum when relations appeared to veer towards normalcy.

A thaw in relations could be discerned towards the latter part of 2024, involving a de-escalation of operations at friction points on the border. Official references to this were, however, made only just prior to the BRICS Summit in Kazan (Russia) in October 2024. Outlines of the India-China Border Patrolling Agreement, nevertheless, remained sketchy, though they did appear to signal a breakthrough. The Agreement, focusing primarily on patrolling arrangements between the two sides in the Himalayas, has since been invested with far greater significance than a mere Border Patrolling Agreement. A 'degree of stand-off', however, still prevails along the Line of Actual Control.

It was China that was first off the mark. In November 2024, the Chinese Defence Ministry observed that India and China were implementing a settlement reached between the two countries for disengagement and resumption of patrolling. Even before the process had been completed, a Chinese Defence Ministry Spokesman (during a media briefing), observed "we look forward to a harmonious dance between the Chinese Dragon and the Indian Elephant with concerted steps".

In an interview with an American podcaster, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – who visited the United States in February 2025 – declared that normalcy had returned to the India-China border after his talks with President Xi Jinping in Kazan in October (2024), adding that "our cooperation is not only (mutually) beneficial, but also essential for global peace and prosperity". Subsequent to this, there has been mention of the revival of the SR (Special Representatives) talks in the near future.

In its shadow play with Beijing, New Delhi must also be prepared for all eventualities

De-escalation of tensions on the border and putting in place new 'patrolling arrangements' are important, but fall well short of robust negotiating stages. Specifics are, however, important in dealing with such issues, all the more so in the case of a nation such as China. In a world that is no longer considered multipolar, and where pluralism is at a severe disadvantage, most experts veer to the view that 'Might is again Right'. Also, that references to the 'rules based international order' have little meaning. Hence, the need for caution.

A reality check

Meanwhile, China, in March, announced that it is increasing its Defence Budget by 7.2% over that of the previous year. This is approximately three times higher than that of India, and should serve as a warning to India. India's defence spending is currently believed to be less than 2% of its GDP, and the difference between a burgeoning Chinese Defence Budget and that of India's is a matter of concern. India and China are not about, or expected, to go to war in the near future, but India should not also be inveigled into accepting China's assertions and promises. The grim reality is that the People's Liberation Army today maintains over a lakh of soldiers (along with tanks, howitzers, surface-to-air missiles and heavy weaponry), in the icy Himalayan heights of Ladakh. This apart, there are reports that China is stocking-up on its nuclear weaponry (and while all reports about nuclear warheads are at best speculative), Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and other reliable agencies suggest that in the recent past, Beijing has added another hundred nuclear warheads to its existing stockpile.

India should not be oblivious to the fact that while talking peace, China is strengthening its war-fighting capabilities (even though this may also be intended to withstand a U.S.-led attack). China's lead in Artificial Intelligence (AI) today also gives it a decided advantage in the realm of 'new age' warfare. Simultaneously, China has taken the lead as far as military applications of cyber, apart from AI, are concerned, becoming adept at AI-enabled cyber-security operations.

China already maintains a lead over India in aspects such as anti-satellite capabilities and has made rapid advancements in battlefield digital technologies, real-time data processing, predictive analytics and automated decision support systems. China is also understood to have a decisive advantage in aspects such as quantum technology. Hence, much more than pious words will be needed to convince the world (India included) about China's real intentions before the Elephant and the Dragon can dance together. India must, hence, exercise utmost vigil.

In the neighbourhood

Meanwhile, as a part of its current foreign policy initiatives, China has embarked on a quest for new friends in India's 'backyard'. India needs to be vigilant about this development. The latest is Bangladesh. After the eclipse of the Sheikh Hasina regime in Bangladesh, and a successful visit by Bangladesh's Chief Adviser, Mohammed Yunus, to China in March, Bangladesh has now come directly on China's radar, and is being viewed as a 'good friend'.

This development, apart from being an aspect of deep concern, creates a new void on India's eastern flank. What is also becoming evident is that even as India has been assiduously courting the U.S., it seems to be losing focus on strengthening and improving relations with countries in its immediate neighbourhood. This situation extends to West Asia and North Africa as well.

Again, if energy security remains the 'Holy Grail' for nations the world over, China appears to have stolen a march over India and many others, in the nuclear energy domain. It has been active in the African continent and has reportedly gained a beachhead there, in terms of nuclear energy resources, while other countries such as India (which are similarly hoping to increase their reliance on nuclear power) remain far behind. Irrespective of relations between India and China, nuclear energy will soon be an important component in the tussle for energy independence and influence. For now, China appears to have stolen a march over India with its successful foray into the African continent, even as their market is beginning to open up. Given the mounting intensity of great power competition, including between India and China, the scale and pace of China's military modernisation, and China's penchant for expanding its boundaries, India could well confront a difficult future, if it does not act in time and with necessary foresight.

Finally, in its shadow play with China, India must also be prepared for any and all eventualities. U.S. President Donald Trump, given his mercurial temperament, could well strike a deal with China – an eventuality that could upset and alter power equations across the globe. It might, hence, be prudent for India's leaders and strategists to take note of such an eventuality, if not for now in the not too distant future, and prepare for this eventuality. India and China are old civilisations and have overcome many problems in the past. This may be one more eventuality that India's leaders might have to anticipate and contend with even if it appears highly improbable at this point in time.

The pandemic — looking back, looking forward

Chirantan Chatterjee

is a Professor of Development Economics, Innovation and Global Health at the University of Sussex

"The only possible answer to the question of how we can survive the plague is by living." – José Saramago

Last month, March, we marked five years of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world. By now, we have had events, conferences, editorials, policy statements and thought leadership internationally. And there could also be some of us left pondering about Saramago. Have we learnt enough as a society and moved toward a healthier, more innovative and inclusive society by picking up lessons from the pandemic?

The learnings are of course stark and have necessitated a fundamental rethink about trust, the role of technology, our responsibility towards the vulnerable, and the architecture of health and innovation in the Global South and North.

Some of the critical lessons

It was from the pandemic that we learnt about the fragility of trust in health-care institutions and public health guidance. Several studies indicated that low trust and confidence in health-care service delivery could hinder the adoption of non-pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical interventions broadly, like for tests and vaccines. This also showed up as a heterogeneity in confidence in health-care systems, impacting mobility and compliance worldwide during the pandemic.

In India, the heterogeneity in reported COVID-19 infections in the early stages pointed to a variation in confidence levels in the health-care sector – as highlighted by reports of the underreporting of excess mortality that was later published in Science. Other countries faced communication failures, as seen in vulnerable economies. Overall, this underscores the critical role of government in convincing populations about the effectiveness of preventive measures. Public health interventions are predicated on public trust, and any erosion of this foundation can severely undermine pandemic response efforts tomorrow.

Technology, a double-edged sword, has also witnessed an unprecedented acceleration in its adoption even as it has starkly revealed the digital divide between the privileged and the underserved and also impacting vulnerable populations during work or study from home.

While there have been many lessons concerning public health responses, innovation and global equity, there is still a lot of unfinished work left

The pandemic propelled the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in pharmaceutical innovation. This writer's research at the University of Sussex with patent data showed a sharp increase in the presence and the count of AI keywords in pharmaceutical patent abstracts after the onset of COVID-19, suggesting increased use of innovative technologies in this sector (further validated by the Nobel Prize awarded to Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper of DeepMind and the rapid progress in drug discovery and innovation spurred by AI). Telemedicine experienced a reinvigoration, offering an alternative way to providing health care amidst restrictions on movement and face-to-face encounters. While digital technology offers solutions, equitable access remains a significant challenge, particularly in developing economies, despite the global surge in digital health interventions.

Vulnerabilities were amplified

We also learnt, brutally, about an amplification of existing vulnerabilities, leading to concerns that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been significantly compromised, particularly in vulnerable, resource-poor economies. The disproportionate effect of COVID-19 on women, concerning childcare, work and mental health, was a critical lesson. Access to health-care services became a major challenge. The experience highlighted the urgent need for policies and investments that specifically address the needs of vulnerable groups to ensure equitable access to care and mitigate disproportionate impacts during health emergencies. The pandemic also triggered a silent pandemic of global mental health challenges. The pandemic has severely affected global workplace productivity, with no stable solution as yet to address this structurally and sustainably as debates around work-from-home or hybrid models continue globally.

COVID-19 laid bare inherent weaknesses in health systems globally, emphasising the necessity of having universal health insurance coverage. The pre-pandemic health systems in India and other Global South nations had inherent weaknesses in addressing public goods and institutional capacity. National oxygen capabilities are now an important issue to address respiratory pathogens circulating for tomorrow's pandemic, as research from U-Edinburgh has pointed out. The concept of "hybrid" solutions, coupling digital technology with existing infrastructure, emerged as a potential pathway for delivering care in a cost-optimal manner. So did public-private collaborations in research and development and health delivery. But on many occasions, these efforts have gone away in various countries after the pandemic has subsided. The need for a central public health officer to harmonise efforts and reduce coordination costs, especially in countries with decentralised health systems, has become increasingly apparent.

The crisis also brought into focus the contentious issue of profiteering. Debates surrounding intellectual property (IP) waivers for COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics highlighted the tension between protecting innovation and ensuring equitable global access. Africa suffered significantly due to vaccine nationalism, amplifying the need for South-South collaboration for future pandemics in this Anthropocene.

In perspective

Overall, five years since the COVID-19 pandemic, it seems like we may have flattened the curve on health, innovation and the economy, but there is a lot of unfinished work. Whether we will be able to usher in 'One World and One Health' or remain mired in protectionist tendencies globally, reflecting on national health security considerations, remains to be seen. Yes, for those left behind on this planet, we are living beyond the pandemic – to allude to Saramago. But are we learning and actively breathing to create globally health-resilient inclusive societies tomorrow? One is left to wonder.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Governor's judgment day

The Supreme Court of India's censoring of the Governor of Tamil Nadu for his unconstitutional conduct and gross dereliction of duty has left his position untenable. He should either resign on his own volition or the Union Government should recall him immediately. This is the only way to appreciate this judgment. During his tenure as the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the incumbent's actions have been most undemocratic and have also denuded the high office of the Governor. He not only withheld Bills but also walked out of the legislature a number of times. He repeatedly sought to undermine the elected representatives of the State and long-held customs of the State. It is imperative that there is follow-up action to this landmark judgment to reinforce democratic values.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

The Supreme Court's observations are significant. The Governor-government relationship has been spoilt in almost all Opposition-ruled States in the country. 'Dictatorship by Governor' should not happen. It is a pity that the BJP wants to rule States that it cannot win through the ballot by using the Governor.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name.

The Rohingya are on the brink of starvation

Syed Munir Khasru

Senior Director of the international think tank IPAG India.

During his four-day visit to Bangladesh in March, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres visited Cox's Bazar, the site of one of the world's most overlooked humanitarian crisis. Over a million Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar are teetering on the edge of catastrophe. Now, their fragile existence has made even more precarious by the Trump administration's abrupt shutdown of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) funding.

USAID, historically the largest donor to humanitarian causes, spent about $40 billion a year globally. This has been slashed by the Department of Government Efficiency, led by billionaire and senior adviser to Mr. Trump, Elon Musk. It is ironic that the U.S., which in 2022 declared the atrocities against the Rohingya a 'genocide', signalling a commitment to respecting and protecting human rights, is today pulling the plug on the very aid that has kept over a million displaced Rohingya alive in Bangladesh, the second-largest recipient of USAID in South Asia.

Catastrophic consequences

The decision to slash USAID funding has sent shockwaves through the global humanitarian community. It has severed a vital lifeline and exposed refugees around the world to starvation, disease, and insecurity. For the Rohingya, who have already endured genocide, exile, and decades of statelessness, the consequences of the decision have been catastrophic. The World Food Programme, which relies largely on U.S. funding, has been forced to cut already meagre rations from $12.50 per refugee per month to an unsustainable $6. Medical aid has dwindled, with at least five hospitals shutting down, and sanitation programmes collapsing. This is a manufactured crisis, an ideological experiment in dismantling global aid, carried out on the backs of the world's most vulnerable people.

A weak moral compass

Mr. Musk's opposition to foreign aid is not new. He has long dismissed USAID as a "financial black hole." His gleeful participation in its dismantling reveals a deeper ideological inclination: a tech billionaire's fantasy of replacing structured aid with privatised, profit-driven solutions. Mr. Musk, like many libertarians, believes that markets solve problems more efficiently than governments. But hunger, displacement, and genocide are not market failures; they are moral failures. The idea that philanthropic ventures or ad hoc charity can replace long-term institutional support is naïve at best and reckless at worst.

The collapse of USAID-funded gender-based violence services and medical facilities has left vulnerable refugees, including women and children, without protection, medical care, and essential support, exposing them to heightened risks of exploitation and harm. The dismantling of USAID is not just about numbers; it's about values. America's moral compass is questioned when the world's richest men believe that spending on starving refugees is wasteful. The problem at hand also reflects a broader shift in the U.S.'s role in the world: a retreat from global responsibility and the abdication of moral leadership. The images from Cox's Bazar – a mother unable to feed her child, a clinic forced to turn away a dying patient, a child scavenging for scraps in a camp that once received international support – are not just distant tragedies. They are reflections of a world where indifference has become a policy and where the whims of the rich dictate the fate of the poor.

This retreat from aid will not go unnoticed. Historically, the U.S.'s foreign assistance has not been purely altruistic; it has been a crucial instrument of soft power. Cutting aid to the Rohingya refugees doesn't just hurt the refugees. It also weakens America's standing in South Asia and beyond. China, which has steadily increased its influence in Bangladesh, will step into the vacuum left by the U.S., leveraging economic aid as a tool for geopolitical leverage. China has already been mediating between Bangladesh and Myanmar for possible repatriation of the Rohingya refugees back home.

A huge vacuum

The question is, if the U.S. withdraws funding, can other nations pitch in? Unfortunately not. The U.S. alone contributed nearly half of the World Food Programme's budget in previous years, making its sudden withdrawal a near-impossible burden to redistribute among remaining donors. This has resulted in drastic food ration cuts, leaving the Rohingya refugees on the brink of starvation. The European Union has pledged €32.3 million, and Japan and Italy have made commitments, but none of them can fill the gap left by the U.S.

The collapse of USAID sets a dangerous precedent. If the world's richest country can turn its back on one of the most vulnerable groups, what would stop other nations from following suit? The Rohingya crisis is not just a test for those suffering, it is a test for human civilisation. As Mr. Guterres said at Coz' Bazar, "We cannot accept that the international community forgets about the Rohingya". He added that he will "speak loudly" to world leaders that more support is urgently needed.

The question is, will the world watch idly as humanitarianism is eroded? Or will it reclaim the compassionate values that once defined the world's oldest and leading democracy, the nation which poured billions of dollars to revive war-torn Europe through the Marshall Plan in 1948?

Their fragile existence has made even more precarious by the abrupt shutdown of USAID funding

Ensuring the safety of elephants

A recent case of poaching has sparked concerns about trade in wildlife products

STATE OF PLAY

Rohan Premkumar
rohan.prem@thehindu.co.in

During the 1990s and early 2000s, the forest brigand, K. Veerappan, who held sway over the forests of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, was notorious for poaching elephants for ivory. While that is now a distant memory for most people, the recent poaching of an elephant in Pennagaram taluk in Dharmapuri district of Tamil Nadu once again highlights how the illegal, lucrative trade in wildlife products continues to pose an existential threat to the safety of wild elephants.

On February 27, poachers shot dead an elephant and burnt the carcass in a bid to destroy evidence. The incident sent shock waves through the Forest Department, which discovered the carcass a few days later, and among animal lovers. The Department detained one of the alleged poachers, G. Senthil. A fortnight later, Senthil was found dead in the forest with a rifle on his remains. While officials have claimed that a handcuffed Senthil assaulted the forest staff and escaped, Senthil's family and activists have raised suspicions that he could have been the victim of an "extrajudicial killing".

Amid the outrage, the State government transferred the case to the Crime Branch-CID for inquiry. Responding to a petition from Senthil's wife seeking a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation, the Madras High Court ordered a second postmortem to be conducted on the suspected poacher's remains to ascertain the cause of his death.

The Forest Department claims that poaching no longer poses a serious threat to the wild elephant population. However, with the elephant population supposedly on the rebound, there is concern that poaching groups could begin operating frequently once again in Tamil Nadu.

According to the Department's Elephant Death Audit Framework, introduced to ensure transparency about the cause of deaths of elephants, poaching accounted for less than 1% of all elephant deaths recorded in the State since 2010. Poaching accounts for 7.5% of all "unnatural deaths", which include poisoning, and train and road accidents. The last elephant death that was caused by poaching, reported on the portal, was said to have occurred in April 2024 in the Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve, located at the junction of the Eastern and Western Ghats.

While the government insists that its conservation policies have bolstered the elephant population and successfully brought down poaching cases over the last two decades since Veerappan's killing, conservationists are worried. A 2019 report by the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau highlighted oversights by the top brass of the Forest Department in the investigation of elephant poaching cases in a number of forest divisions including Megamalai, Valparai, Nilgiris, Coimbatore, and Theni. These include underreporting of cases and the exclusion of buyers of ivory in the list of accused persons. Taking cognisance of the report, the Madras High Court in 2022 constituted a Special Investigation Team to probe 19 cases of elephant poaching in Tamil Nadu. In addition, a 2022 reply from the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, sought under the Right to Information Act, 2005, stated that the elephant population had declined sharply between 2012 and 2017 – from over 4,000 to less than 2,800. In 2024, the government reported that the population had recovered to over 3,000 elephants.

Over the last few years, there have been concerns over the emergence of poaching groups that are targeting wildlife across the State, especially parts of the Nilgiris. There have been confirmed instances of the poaching of tigers in Tamil Nadu by groups from north India. Some cases of leopard poaching remain unsolved. The Forest Department is also said to be aware that inter-State poaching gangs are operating within the Nilgiris district, hunting wild game meat, and is working with counterparts in Kerala to clampdown on these groups.

According to activists, while poaching has drastically reduced thanks to increased surveillance by the Forest Department, structural reforms within the Department are needed. They say these will ensure transparency in the reporting of cases and better training of field staff to carry out thorough investigations to ensure convictions, thereby eliminating the need to use force to elicit confessions from accused persons.

Democracy and federalism in the delimitation debate

The delimitation debate has to take into account the relative weights of individual electors and individual States

DATA POINT

Varghese K. George
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

In the ongoing debate on delimitation, a conflict between a principle of democracy and one of federalism has become apparent. 'One person, one vote, one value' is a principle of India's electoral system. What this should mean in practice, at a minimum, is that all Lok Sabha constituencies should have roughly the same number of electors. The Indian republic is constituted as a "union of States". States are the constituent units, and they have their individual identity and power. The delimitation debate, therefore, has to take into account the relative weights of individual electors and individual States. It has to be about federal democracy.

A two-step process

Article 81(2) of the Constitution takes into account federalism and democracy by providing for apportionment of Lok Sabha seats in a two-step process. The first step is to divide them among the States. It is in the second step that they are divided into constituencies within the States. Article 81(2) (a) provides allotment to each State in "such manner that the ratio between that number and the population of the State is, so far as practicable, the same for all States." In Article 81(2) (b), it is provided that "each State shall be divided into territorial constituencies in such manner that the ratio between the population of each constituency and the number of seats allotted to it is, so far as practicable, the same throughout the State." The qualifier "so far as practicable" in both clauses allows for deviations, and delimitation acts go more into specifics.

The 84th amendment to the Constitution in 2001 and the 87th amendment in 2003 combined (when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was Prime Minister) separated this two-step process in more definitive terms, by basing them on two separate population counts. The apportionment among States was linked to the 1971 Census; and the apportionment within States was based on the 2001 Census. In the current text of the Constitution, Clause 3 of Article 81 defines the reference to "population" in Clause 2 in two ways, as follows: "for the purposes of sub-clause (a) of clause (2) and the proviso to that clause, as a reference to the 1971 Census" and "for the purposes of sub-clause (b) of clause (2) as a reference to the 2001 Census." The Delimitation Commission appointed in 2002 followed this criteria and its recommendations were implemented in 2008 when Manmohan Singh was Prime Minister. The next inter-State redistribution of constituencies was barred until "the first Census taken after the year 2026 has been published," by the 84th amendment.

Distribution of representation

Now, compare this distribution of representation to the distribution of land wealth in a joint family which has several constituent familial units. India is akin to a joint family and States, its constituent familial units. Each unit was given its share of land according to the size of its membership – the more the members, the higher the share. Each unit further divided their share among their individual members. Over time, some units added more members, and this caused a decline in the share for their individual members; some others ended up with fewer members, resulting in an increase in per person holding. That is what has happened to the value of votes across States. In 1967, every member in the Lok Sabha represented roughly 4.2 lakh-5.3 lakh electors across all major States. But in 2024, one MP from Kerala represented around 13.9 lakh electors, while in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, it was 19.3 lakh each (all post bifurcation), and in Rajasthan, 21.4 lakh.

This means vote values of electors across States are not equal any more. To understand this better, let's pick a middle point, called the national median, which is the population per MP of India. We assign this median a vote value of 1. Then, we calculate the value of vote in each State by comparing it to this median. For example, if a State's MP represents twice as many people as the median, its vote value is 0.5 – because one MP is doing the job of two. If another State's MP represents half as many people, its vote value is 2 – meaning its people get twice the representation compared to the average.

Chart 1 and 2 illustrate the vote value of 18 major States in 1967 and 2024. In 1967, the variation in vote value across these States was relatively modest. By 2024, the gap from the median had widened significantly, with some States seeing a sharp rise in vote value and others a noticeable decline. Kerala's vote value was 30% higher than the national median, followed by Tamil Nadu (13%), Odisha (12%), and Punjab (9%). On the other hand, Rajasthan's vote value was 16% lower than the median, and Uttar Pradesh's and Bihar's was 7% each below the median. When the relative size of the population within each unit increases, the value of each vote declines – as it happens with the landholding that gets divided, and vice-versa.

If Lok Sabha constituencies are delimited based on current population, and regardless of State boundaries – i.e., when all votes across India are given the same value – the apportionment between States will undergo major changes. For instance, Rajasthan, which today has 4.6% of Lok Sabha members, could get 5.5%, while Kerala, which has 3.7%, will see its share shrink to 2.8% **(Chart 3)**.

This data captures this conflict of two principles in India's federal democracy – the relative representation of States, and individual voters.

varghese.g@thehindu.co.in
vignesh.r@thehindu.co.in

Mind the gaps

Data for the tables were sourced from the Election Commission of India and Ashoka Universities' Lok Dhaba

Chart 1: The chart illustrates the vote value of 18 major States in **1967**

The middle point picked, called the national median, is the population per MP of India. We assign this median a vote value of 1

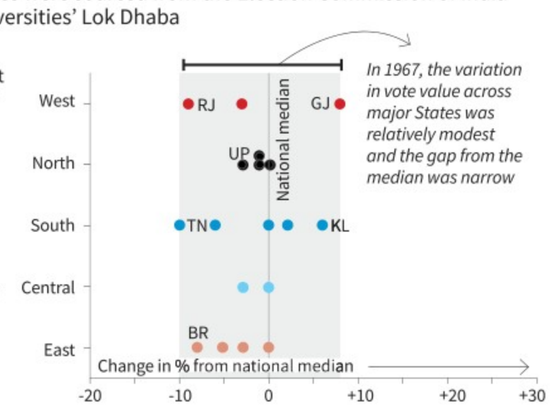


Chart 2: The chart illustrates the vote value of 18 major States in **2024**

The graphs show the value of vote in each State by comparing it to the median. The farther to the right, the higher the vote value than the median and vice-versa

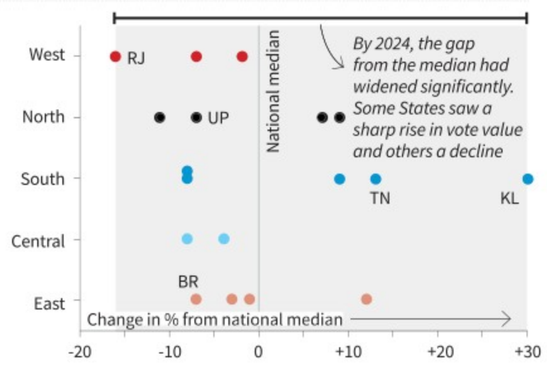
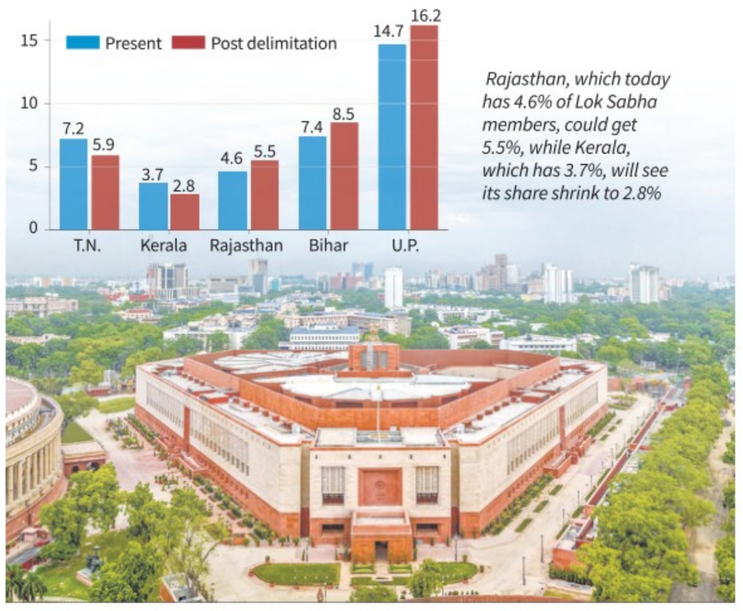


Chart 3: Chart shows the State-wise % share of seats in the Lok Sabha presently and the share if LS constituencies are delimited based on current population



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 10, 1975

Many private firms are now "Govt. companies"

New Delhi, April 9: Mr. T.A. Pai, Minister of Industry, said to-day that many private companies had become "Government companies" by definition because of considerable investments by public financial institutions, and the Government was considering a new pattern of management for these companies to ensure the safety of investments and assured fair returns. "Not only our money but the money of small shareholders" was involved, he noted in reply to a question from Mr. P.R. Shenoy in the Lok Sabha. Mr. Shenoy asked whether to implement the "national sector" concept the Government would take over 51% of the shares in every joint sector unit controlled by monopolists. Mr. Pai said that in terms of the definition in the Companies Act, if 51% of the capital was owned by the Central Government, the State Government and Corporations owned or controlled by the Government, the company became a "Government Company." Under the definition, many of the private companies had already become "Government companies." The question was being studied as to "what extent our own investments" were involved in those companies, he said. Replying to Mr. V.P. Sathe, the Minister explained how the concept of private sector had undergone considerable change in the last 25 years. Since the public financial institutions had been financing the private units after the nationalisation of Life and General Insurance, most of the holdings now belonged to public financial institutions.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 10, 1925

Poor libraries of India

At the opening of the exhibition of manuscripts books and library material held in connection with the Hoogly District Library Conference at Bansberia, the delegates were addressed by Mr. Chapman, Librarian of the Imperial Library, Calcutta. The following is the substance of Mr. Chapman's speech: "We have in India not a single library that can for a moment be compared with the chief libraries in the countries with which India ranks in size and importance, and in many quite small countries, such as Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, there are more libraries than I can count, which, in buildings, quantity of books, staff, catalogues and indexes, are infinitely above the best we can show in India."

From Page One

Trump pauses tariffs; slaps China with 125%

The 27-nation bloc, which Mr. Trump has accused of being created to "screw" the United States, will hit more than 20 billion euros' worth of U.S. products, including soybeans, motorcycles and beauty products.

But the EU notably did not retaliate against the 20% U.S. tariffs that came into effect a minute after midnight on Wednesday.

Mr. Trump announced a week ago on what he called "Liberation Day" that he would impose a 10% baseline tariff on all countries that took effect on Saturday, with additional rates for economies including China and the EU with a large trade surplus with the United States that took effect on Wednesday.

With markets roiled for the past week, Mr. Trump earlier Wednesday urged Americans to "BE COOL!" and said that "everything is going to work out well".

Wall Street stocks rocketed higher on Wednesday after Mr. Trump's pause announcement.

Minutes after Mr. Trump unveiled it, the S&P 500 surged 6% higher to 5,281.44, snapping a brutal run of losses over the past week.

European and Asian stock markets had earlier tumbled along with oil and the dollar as the confrontation escalated.

U.S. bond yields had also risen amid a sharp sell-off – a major economic red light as sovereign government debt is normally seen as a safe haven for investors in troubled times.

Before his pivot, Mr. Trump said world leaders were rushing to negotiate "tailored" deals with the United States, with Japan and South Korea among those sending delegations to Washington.

RBI cuts repo rate by 0.25%, trims forecast

"There are, however, several known unknowns – the impact of relative tariffs, the elasticities of our export and import demand; and the policy measures adopted by the Government, including the proposed Foreign Trade Agreement with the USA, to name a few. These make the quantification of the adverse impact difficult," Mr. Malhotra emphasised.

The risks to inflation, on the other hand, are two-sided, he pointed out. "On the upside, uncertainties may lead to possible currency pressures and imported inflation. On the downside, slowdown in global growth could entail further softening in commodity and crude oil prices, putting downward pressure on inflation," he said.

"Overall, while global trade and policy uncertainties shall impede growth, its impact on domestic inflation, while requiring us to be vigilant, is not expected to be of high concern," he added.

Taking various factors into consideration, real GDP growth for 2025-26 is now projected at 6.5% (down from the 6.7% projected in February), with a first quarter growth forecast of 6.5% , and the subsequent three quarters at 6.7%, 6.6%, and 6.3% respectively.

"While the risks are evenly balanced around these baseline projections, uncertainties remain high in the wake of the recent spike in global volatility," the RBI Governor said.

The repo rate cut means that the standing deposit facility (SDF) under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) will stand adjusted to 5.75%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.25%.

Rana likely to reach today, set to face trial

In February, U.S. President Donald Trump had announced the decision to extradite Rana during a joint press conference along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

At the weekly briefing on Wednesday, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal referred to the U.S. Supreme Court order, but gave no details of Rana's transfer. "As far as the extradition of Rana is concerned, I don't have an update, but we will provide you an update at the appropriate time," Mr. Jaiswal said, indicating that the government would make a formal announcement only once the plane carrying Rana lands in India, which could even be on Friday, depending on the time taken for refuelling stops.

In 2011, the NIA had chargesheeted Rana in absentia after he was arrested in the U.S. as an accomplice of David Headley, the Lashkar-e-Taiba mastermind who carried out the planning and reconnaissance operations for the Mumbai attacks at the behest of LeT chief Hafiz Saeed.

In particular, Rana was involved in the planning of the Mumbai attacks, assisting Headley in procuring a visa and creating a false identity so he could travel to India. The U.S. authorities entered into a plea bargain deal with Headley that bars his extradition or execution and he is serving a life term for the Mumbai attacks.

Rana, who was acquitted in the Mumbai attacks case, was convicted for his role in planning a related terror attack in Copenhagen along with Headley and served half his term of 14 years before being freed during the pandemic. In 2019, India, through diplomatic channels, requested Rana's extradition, and he was re-arrested in 2020, when he applied for a new U.S. passport. Although the court had ordered his extradition in 2023, Rana filed a number of appeals, claiming that his background in the Pakistani Army raised chances he would be "tortured" in Indian custody.

Two encounters break out in J&K's Udhampur, Kishtwar

According to officials, five or six militants are suspected to be in hiding, with no casualties on either side reported so far; Army and CRPF personnel have been mobilised for reinforcements

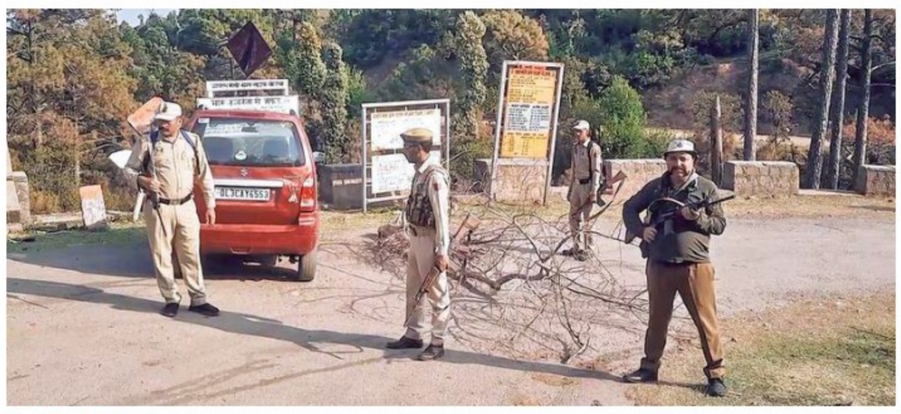
Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Security forces engaged militants in two separate gunfights in Udhampur and Kishtwar districts of the Jammu region on Wednesday, officials said.

In Udhampur, the encounter began at Jopher village after the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Police received specific information about the presence of suspected militants.

"A special operations group (SOG) team was dispatched to the spot. During the search, a gunfight started. Security forces retaliated with fire," said Amod Ashok Nagpure, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Udhampur.

Three militants are suspected to be operating in the area. While the exchange of fire continued, there were no confirmed reports of any militant casualties by Wednesday evening. "Army and CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] were also mobilised. Reinforcements were sent to the encounter site. The cordon has been further strengthened for the night. We will resume the search operation when feasible," Mr. Nagpure added.



Keeping an eye: Police personnel stand guard after security forces established contact with three terrorists during a search operation in a village in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday. PTI

The Kathua-Udhampur belt has recently witnessed increased militant movement, with more than five sightings reported.

Earlier, an anti-militancy operation in neighbouring Kathua district resulted in the deaths of four policemen and two militants.

Simultaneously to the encounter in Udhampur, another gunfight erupted in Chatroo belt of Kishtwar district in the Chenab Valley region, where Army personnel engaged a group of hiding militants. An official stated that two to three militants are believed to be present in the area. Officials indicated that the militants were utilising the dense forest cover in the mountainous terrain to prolong the engagement.

BSF jawan injured in IED blast in Punjab on Pakistan border

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

A BSF party, during an area domination patrol, found suspicious items in Indian territory

A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan sustained a serious injury on Wednesday after an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded ahead of the fence along the India-Pakistan International Border in Punjab.

A BSF statement said the incident occurred on the intervening night of April 8 and 9, when a BSF party, during an area domination patrol ahead of the border security fence, detected suspicious items well inside the Indian territory.

Lying concealed

"During this operation, the troops identified a suspected IED planted ahead of the fence, indicating a clear attempt to target security forces and farmers," the statement read.

Further inspection by the personnel revealed a network of concealed wires in the fields, confirming the presence of multiple IEDs.

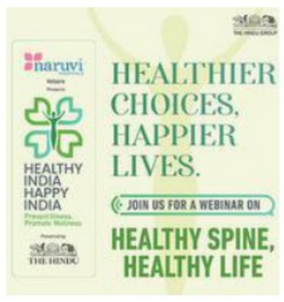
While sanitising the area, the detonating device of the IEDs, which was concealed, accidentally got triggered, resulting in a serious leg injury to a BSF jawan, the statement further stated.

The agency added that, despite the inherent risks, the troops continued their operation, successfully securing the area and preventing a potentially massive tragedy to the personnel and farmers.

After daybreak, the BSF bomb disposal squad reached the spot, defused the IEDs and ensured the safety of the area, said the statement.

Naruvi Hospitals and *The Hindu* to host session on spine health

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI



This will be the 8th webinar in a 15-part series on wellness

Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, in collaboration with *The Hindu*, is hosting a webinar titled "Healthy Spine, Healthy Life" from 11.30 a.m. on Sunday.

This session is part of the ongoing "Healthy India, Happy India" series – a 15-part webinar aimed at promoting awareness, disease prevention, and overall wellness across India.

The eighth webinar in the series will feature expert doctors. Boopesh P., consultant, neurosurgery, Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, will speak on "workplace ergonomics".

Backiaraj, consultant, spine surgery, Naruvi Hospitals, will offer insights on "Lifestyle factors impacting spine health".

Henry Prakash, Professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Christian Medical College, Vellore, will speak on "Exercises for a healthy spine".

E-certificates will be issued to all the registered participants. The session will be moderated by Hiba Mariam.

To register for the session, go to newsth.live/HIHIUIE or scan the QR code.

Waqf issue violence: 22 held, Internet suspended in Bengal's Murshidabad

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

Twenty-two people were arrested following violence and arson during a protest rally against the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 in Parliament in Murshidabad, West Bengal, on Tuesday, a senior police official said on Wednesday.

Nine persons were in police custody, and the rest in judicial custody, he added. "Raids are on since Tuesday night. We are scanning CCTV footage to identify more people from the incident," the senior police official told *The Hindu*.

On Tuesday evening, violence erupted when some 100 protesters, rallying and sloganeering against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, clashed with the police near the Umarpur crossing in the Raghunathganj police station limits along National Highway no. 12.

A damaged house after protests over the Waqf (Amendment) Act turned violent in Murshidabad's Jangipur area on Wednesday. PTI

Lobbed tear gas shells

The officer said that after protesters vandalised police vehicles and attacked personnel, the police resorted to a lathi charge and lobbed tear gas shells. The situation was reportedly brought under control within a few hours.

The District Magistrate of Murshidabad, Rajarshi Mitra, passed a 48-hour prohibitory order on Tuesday evening under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) for areas under the Raghunathganj and Suti police stations of Murshidabad.

Will protect interests of minorities, says Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Amidst violent protests in certain parts of West Bengal over the Waqf (Amendment) Act, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday assured minority community members that she would protect their interests but added that acting hurriedly would jeopardise the interests of her government.

"I have a message for the minorities, I know you are upset (on the Waqf Amendment Act). But have faith, nothing will happen in Bengal along the lines of divide-and-rule. Let this message go to everyone, to live and let others live in peace," the Chief Minister said while participating in an event in Kolkata.

She said many people are "politically provoking" Muslims to start a movement. "I will appeal to you to not do such a thing."

Rana a small player, U.S. had stalled Headley's extradition, says ex-official

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

With Tahawwur Hussain Rana, one of the co-conspirators in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, being extradited to India, former Union Home Secretary G.K Pillai said on Wednesday that Rana had a "small role" to play in the carnage but the main conspirator was protected by the U.S.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Pillai said that the U.S. acted in "bad faith" and despite knowing about the terror plan, they let Rana's school friend and main conspirator, David Coleman Headley, to continue with his "anti-India activity".

He said that Headley acted as a double agent for the U.S. government and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). After Headley's arrest in 2009, the Americans stalled his extradition to India by offering him plea-bargaining, he said.

"Even post the 26/11 attack, Headley came to Mumbai. We could have arrested him in Mumbai if we had known that he is an accomplice in terms of logistics and support. It was definitely bad faith by the Americans. It really shows that as far as the Americans are concerned, they only look after their interests," Mr. Pillai said.

G.K. Pillai

Asked about the significance of Rana's extradition, Mr. Pillai said, "He had a small role to play, more of a passive role in providing the legal cover for Headley to be able to come to India. His role was setting up the immigration office in Mumbai and employing Headley and it was during these trips that the latter identified the place of landing of the boat carrying the terrorists. He had done physical reconnaissance of all these places and passed on information to the ISI."

It was during Mr. Pillai's tenure in office that Headley and Rana were arrested by the U.S authorities in October 2009, almost a year after the attacks that left 166 people dead.

"He was arrested when I was the Union Home Secretary but the legal process takes a long time, especially extradition. Finally it has happened," he said, adding that Rana would be convicted based on the evidence gathered so far.

Mr. Pillai said Headley, despite having a Pakistani father, could pass off as a U.S citizen due to his appearance and the passport, which only had his mother's name. "Before 26/11 happened, he had made a number of trips to India... from India, he went to Pakistan on his U.S passport. Even our intelligence agencies did not suspect him to be a Pakistani agent primarily because he came on a U.S. passport and could pass off as a white American. The Americans very cleverly concealed his Pakistani identity. Had we known he was of Pakistani origin, every time he came to India, he would have been put under surveillance," Mr. Pillai said.

He said after the incident, the software to track foreigners was changed to flag persons frequently visiting India and Pakistan on foreign passports.

Rana, wanted by the NIA in the 2008 terror attack case, was lodged in a Los Angeles prison en route to India following the completion of extradition proceedings.

The Pakistani-Canadian citizen had challenged the extradition and the last attempt was rejected by the U.S Supreme Court earlier this week.

India withdraws transshipment facility for Bangladesh

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India has withdrawn the transshipment facility it had extended to Bangladesh as it was creating "significant congestion" in Indian airports and ports, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Wednesday.

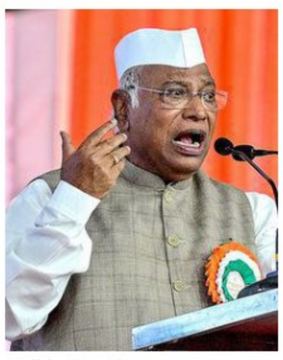
The move is not aimed to impact Bangladesh's trade with Nepal and Bhutan, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly press briefing. It comes days after Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to Bangladesh's interim government, visited Beijing and made statements that were deemed to be controversial as he advocated greater Chinese trade ties with northeastern India, using Bangladesh ports. Indian officials refused to confirm whether the withdrawal of transshipment facilities was linked to his remarks.

"The transshipment facility extended to Bangladesh had over a period of time resulted in significant congestion at our airports and ports. Logistical delays and higher costs were hindering our own exports and creating backlogs. The facility, therefore, has been withdrawn with effect from April 8, 2025. To clarify, these measures do not impact Bangladesh exports to Nepal or Bhutan transiting through Indian territory," he said. On Tuesday, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs issued a notification terminating the transshipment facility for Bangladesh's trade with Bhutan, Myanmar, and Nepal.

In 2020, India had started allowing the transshipment of cargo from Bangladesh through Indian Land Customs Stations, which would then be sent to their final destinations using Indian ports and airports. The facility is essential for the export of ready-made items from Bangladesh, as these are sent to countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, and Myanmar.

Cong. calls SC order on T.N. Governor a "slap on govt.'s face"

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD


Mallikarjun Kharge

The Supreme Court's order to "operationalise" the Bills which were being blocked by the Tamil Nadu Governor, is a "slap" on the face of the Narendra Modi government, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Wednesday.

In his inaugural address at the 86th All India Congress Committee (AICC) session, Mr. Kharge led a scathing attack on the Modi government on a range of issues, including questioning the fairness of the electoral procedures.

The Congress chief accused the government of trying to have a "tailor-made process that can destroy democracy and defeat the Opposition".

Citing Maharashtra, where the Congress had won the highest number of seats in the Lok Sabha, he said that in the Assembly election, the BJP won 138 of the 150 seats it contested.

"If I say all this is fraud, they will tell you prove it," Mr. Kharge said. "If this continues, the youth of the country will soon rise and demand elections to be held through ballot papers."

Mr. Kharge targeted Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, saying the Speaker named Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi in the House but did not allow him to speak.

Taking on the BJP for claiming that real development began only after the Modi government came to power in 2014, Mr. Kharge countered by saying that it was the Congress that built Gandhinagar city, the Indian Institute of Management and the Indian Space Research Organisation, and started the White Revolution to ensure sufficiency in milk production.

Call to party workers

In a blunt message to party colleagues, the Congress chief said those who did not want to share party responsibility could "take rest and retire".

He also announced that district-level leadership would be given more responsibility as part of a revamp plan.

"Democracy is being finished slowly, slowly, slowly," he alleged.

He said the Opposition was not allowed to raise the issue of the imposition of tariffs by the U.S. in Parliament. He said a monopoly is being established with resources being handed to a few crony capitalists.

Mr. Kharge also alleged that SC, ST, and OBC reservations were being finished through privatisation. "If this continues, the Modi government and Modi will sell off the whole country and go," he alleged.

An economic storm coming, says Rahul at AICC session

He targets PM over 'silence' on U.S. tariffs, reiterates demand for caste census, calls the Waqf Act 'anti-constitution,' and accuses government of creating drama in Parliament to divert attention

Sandeep Phukan
AHMEDABAD

Firm stand: Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and former Congress president Sonia Gandhi at an AICC meeting in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. VIJAY SONEJI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his "silence" on the imposition of tariffs by U.S. President Donald Trump and warned that an "economic storm" is coming.

Mr. Gandhi made these remarks towards the conclusion of the 86th session of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), which passed a resolution targeting the BJP for following "pseudo-nationalism" in the quest for power.

The Congress positioned itself as the defender of the Constitution, and vowed to "fight back every assault on the federal structure".

Addressing the AICC session on the banks of the Sabarmati river, Mr. Gandhi announced that District Congress Committees and district-level leadership would be made the "foundational structure of the party", and reiterated his focus on social justice, emphasising his demand for a caste census and removal of the 50% cap on reservation.

But the Opposition leader spent most of his time attacking the Prime Minister over tariffs, recalling how Mr. Modi had hugged President Trump during his earlier visits to the U.S., but not during the recent visit.

"This time, did you see their photograph hugging each other? President Trump, whom Prime Minister Modi calls a friend, ordered him that 'Listen, we will not hug each other this time, we will impose tariffs.' He [Modi] could not utter a word. He has disappeared," Mr. Gandhi said.

"Now an economic storm is coming and crores [of people] will suffer losses, where is he, where is he [Mr. Modi] hiding," Mr. Gandhi asked.

To divert people's attention from the tariff issue, Mr. Gandhi said, "the government enacted a drama in Parliament for two days", referring to the late-night sittings in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha for the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Act.

Mr. Gandhi mentioned Mr. Modi's recent meeting with Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, and questioned why the meeting took place despite the Bangladeshi leader making adverse comments earlier.

Mr. Gandhi said the Waqf Act passed recently by the government was an attack on the freedom of religion. "The Waqf Bill is anti-Constitution and against the freedom of religion," he said.

AICC resolution

The AICC resolution asserted that its commitment to secularism was inspired by the age-old traditions of India, while the BJP government and its affiliates were "determined to fracture the core national spirit for political gain and lust for power".

"The stark truth is that the targeting of Muslims and Christians is making large sections of them live in fear today, which is not only demeaning but a crime against the Constitution," the resolution, titled *Nyaypath* (path of justice), read.

The Congress asserted that its legacy of sacrifice is intertwined within its path, and the history of India has been written in the blood and sacrifice of its workers and leaders.

"What is 'nationalism' for the Congress? Of course, the territorial integrity of India depicts our nationhood. But 'nationalism', in its true sense, signifies the social, political, and economic justice as also empowerment of India's people," the resolution said, adding, "The idea of nationalism for the Congress is one that binds people together. On the other hand, the pseudo-nationalism of the BJP-RSS seeks to divide the society and our people".

Congress must be a party of hope, not of resentment: Tharoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shashi Tharoor

The Congress needs to reclaim the votes it lost in the previous three Lok Sabha elections through "constructive criticism and not unrelenting negativity", Lok Sabha MP and Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Shashi Tharoor said on Wednesday.

"In 2024, we had both good news and bad news. Our strength in the Lok Sabha [increased], but we had setbacks in State elections afterwards. This All India Congress Committee (AICC) session should mark a turning point," Mr. Tharoor said, seconding the main AICC resolution.

"As I said at the CWC yesterday, the Congress must be the party of hope, not of resentment; the party of the future, not just the past; the party with the positive narrative and not just negative criticism," he added.

'Focus on the future'

Recalling the Congress's glorious past in Gujarat, the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel, Mr. Tharoor said, "We have an illustrious history. But we must recognise that the young, who are the majority of the electorate, are more concerned with what we can do for them today and what kind of tomorrow we can provide for them. Our resolution will be judged by that."

Holding the AICC session on the banks of the Sabarmati in Gujarat, where the Congress has been out of power for the last three decades, signals that the party is on the "brink of a new revival", he said.

Inclusive nationalism

The AICC resolution showcases the Congress's nationalism upfront, "rather than ceding it to the other side", he said. "But our nationalism is anchored in the well-being of all Indians. Social justice is a major theme in the resolution. As our Constitution makes clear, our nation includes people of diverse religions, languages, regions, and castes," he said.

"The resolution acknowledges the sacrifices of the unsung party workers. Without your hard work, this resolution would only be words," he said.

Stressing the party's inclusive agenda, Mr. Tharoor said: "The idea of India is that you can be a good Gujarati, a good Muslim, and a good Indian all at once."

Mr Tharoor said economic growth is important for the country, but the fruits of growth must be distributed in a way that benefits those who have been left behind. "We must always be the voice of the voiceless," he said.

Rahul Gandhi's 'belated' response to Waqf Act lacks clarity of thought: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said that OBCs had little say in the decision-making within the Congress party. FILE PHOTO

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday asked the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, if he was uncomfortable with the empowerment of deprived women and girls, and the extremely backward Pasmanda Muslims via the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. Terming Mr. Gandhi's response in the matter belated, the party said the Congress leader had not addressed the core issues.

At a press conference, former Union Minister and BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad said Mr. Gandhi, who did not speak during the debate on the Bill in the Lok Sabha, finally commented on it at the Congress Working Committee meeting in Ahmedabad, but lacked clarity of thought and did not have anything to say on key issues.

"He said that the Act was unconstitutional... we had explained in detail in Parliament that it is completely constitutional... I have three questions for him. Rahul Gandhi*ji*, please tell me that no hospital, school, orphanage, skill centre, etc., has been built on the Waqf properties, which are over eight lakh. Do you think it is right or wrong for the daughters of poor Muslims?" he said.

"Do you have a problem if Waqf is being reformed for the betterment of the women, widows, of the Muslim community?... and thirdly, nowadays someone has given you a chit for OBC (Other Backward Class)...if you are worried about the development of backward, the extremely backward Pasmanda Muslims would benefit from the amendment, do you have any problem from that?" Mr. Prasad said.

The BJP leader claimed that OBCs had little say in the decision-making within the Congress party, whereas the BJP had several OBC leaders as Chief Ministers, Union Ministers, and senior functionaries of the party.

West Bengal files 'clarificatory petition' in recruitment case

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

As protests continued to rage in the State over the annulment of appointments of 25,752 teachers and non-teaching staff, West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Pant on Wednesday said that the State government will file a review petition before the Supreme Court.

Emphasising that the State government stands with the affected teachers, Mr. Pant said that it had already filed a "clarificatory petition" praying for a *status quo*. A Supreme Court order on April 3, upheld an earlier decision of Calcutta High Court annulling the appointments.

The Chief Secretary said: "We have sought an explanation from the Supreme Court. No one has been given a termination letter. We have to move forward keeping the Supreme Court's verdict in mind. We should not give in to anyone's provocation. We should not take the law into our own hands in any way."

Supreme Court to hear pleas against Waqf law on April 16

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Petitions challenging the constitutionality of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, have been listed for hearing on April 16.

The case is listed before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna.

The Centre has already filed a caveat in the Supreme Court to ensure no order is passed without hearing it first. A government notification said the Waqf Act had already come into force earlier this week.

Over 10 petitions, including those by politicians and the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, were filed in the top court challenging the validity of the new law.

The petitioners have argued that the provisions of the 2025 amendments imposed "arbitrary restrictions on Waqf properties and their management, thereby undermining the religious autonomy of the Muslim community".

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CSIR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
Hyderabad - 500007.

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION NO. PS/03/2025

CSIR-IICT, Hyderabad is conducting Walk-in-Interviews on 22nd April, 2025 for the positions of Project Staff having qualifications of M.Sc. in (Chemistry / Life Sciences) / B.Tech in Chemical Engineering / M. Pharm / B.Sc. etc.

For full details visit our website **www.iictindia.org**

Sd/-
Controller of Administration

KMML
The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam 691583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 217 E-Mail :md@kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal: https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

No	TENDER ID	ITEMS
1	2025_KMML_759232_1	For fabrication & Supply of Heavy Ends Condenser E215
2	2025_KMML_759235_1	For fabrication & Supply of Distributor Plate for Chlorinator
3	2025_KMML_759356_1	For the supply of Feed Chute Titanium Lined for Calciner-1 Nos

Chavara 09.04.2025
Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDERS

ABRIDGED NIT

The **Director General (P&D Department), KMC** invites e-tender/quotation online expression of interest of lower bidder for the following work:–
NIT No.: **KMC/D.G.(P_D)/C/001/2025-26**
Name of the Work: **"Rehabilitation/Refurbishment of Brick Sewer from Moulali to Palmer's Bridge Pumping Station".**
Estimated Value: **Tender amount to be quoted by the bidder.**
Earnest Money: ₹ **10,00,000.00**. Period of Completion: **24 months**. Last date and time of submission of bid: **28.05.2025 at 3.30 p.m.** Date & Time of Pre-bid meeting: **25.04.2025 – 3.30 p.m. (Place of Meeting: Office of the Director General (P&D), KMC, 19, Nellie Sengupta Sarani, Kolkata-700087)**.
Bid submission start date (online) on: **28.04.2025 (3.30 p.m.).**
The bid forms and other details are available on and from **11.04.2025 (3.30 p.m.)** from the website **https://etender.wb.nic.in**.
43/25-26

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
WATER RESOURCES ZONE JODHPUR

S.NO./Acctt./2025-26/4531 Date 02/04/2025

Notice Inviting Bids.
NIB No. 01/2025-26

Notice inviting Bid for Improvement work in Arniyali Lift minor canal system beyond Km. 17 Rs.1682.13 Lacs in the State of Rajasthan India invited from interested bidders' Date of sale of Bid 07.04.2025,11.00 AM to 28.04.2025 up to 1:00 PM Last Date of receiving of Bid 28.04.2025 up to 6:00 PM and Bid will be opened on 30.04.2025 at 05:00 PM. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** and **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** of the state and Water Resources department Rajasthan website.

UBN No. WRD2526WLOB0008 Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/4756/2025 Water Resources Zone, Jodhpur

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Office : Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur 302005
Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-II)
MM Building, Old Power House Premises, Near Ram Mandir, Banipark, Jaipur-302006
Tel. 0141-2202607, E-Mail ID :- semm2@jvvnl.org

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited for awarding Central rate contract for repair and testing of Beyond G.P. failed/ damaged 5 KVA to 25 KVA Single Phase Aluminum wound Distribution Transformers (TN-2921, UBN- VVN2526WSRC00003) & Beyond G.P. failed/ damaged 10 KVA to 160 KVA Aluminum wound & 315 to 500 KVA Copper wound Three Phase Distribution Transformers (TN-2922, UBN-VVN2526WSRC00004). All the details regarding tenders are available at web site **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.** In future, corrigendum/ extension, if any, shall be published only at above web sites. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
Raj.Samwad/C/25/535 JPR-2984 (2025) (MM-II)
For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Delhi Transco Ltd (A Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking) intends to invite online Two Part Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB) for the following work:

Tender No.T24P108891: Procurement of 72.5KV, 31.5KA Outdoor SF6 Circuit Breakers complete in all respects as per technical specifications attached and as per relevant & latest IS/IEC

For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :- **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in(TenderIDNo.:2025_DTL_270556)** and https://dtl.gov.in (Tender Reference No.: DTL-9554-040425)

Last date for bid submission: **30.04.2025 at 01.30 P.M.**

All Corrigendum/Addendum/ Amendments/ Date of Extensions/ Clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

(Govt. of Karnataka)
KARNATAKA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, HUBLI
1. KMCR/SUP(1)/D)328/2024-25 Dated 28-06-2025 (DME/2024-25/IND1335)
2. KMCR/SUP(1)/D)329/2024-25 Dated 28-06-2025 (DME/2024-25/IND1334)

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು ಅರ್ಹ **ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು, ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಪೆಟೆಂಟ್ಸ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧೀಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಎಮ್.ಸಿ & ಆರ್.ಐ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ ಔಷಧಿ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳನ್ನು** ಪೂರೈಸುವದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಶಾಸನ 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಟೆಂಡರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು),
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

INBRIEF

'Forensic evidence connects suspect to actor stabbing case'

The Mumbai Police have filed a chargesheet in the case of stabbing of Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan at his Bandra residence on January 16. The 1,000-page document includes evidence that allegedly connects the arrested suspect to the attack. According to the police, the chargesheet names Mohammad Shariful Islam, a 30-year-old Bangladesh national, who was apprehended three days after the incident, as the suspect. Forensic analysis reportedly shows that metal fragments removed from Mr. Khan's spine during surgery match both a knife found at the crime scene and a weapon recovered from the accused.

Traveller urinates on fellow passenger on Air India flight

A man in an inebriated condition urinated on a business class traveller on an Air India flight from Delhi to Bangkok on Wednesday. The airline said it has reported the matter to the authorities and has convened an independent committee to probe the incident and determine the action to be taken against the passenger. The incident happened aboard flight AI 2336. "The crew followed all the laid down procedures, and the matter has been reported to the authorities," Air India said in a statement.

Comparing MMR of India and Nigeria is unfair, says Ministry

Comparing India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) with Nigeria's is unfair, the Union Health Ministry said on Wednesday, while reacting to the recently released United Nations Maternal Mortality Estimation Inter-Agency Group (MMEIG) report titled "Trends in maternal mortality 2000-2023". The report has indicated that India made big strides in reducing MMR but registered 19,000 maternal deaths in 2023 contributing almost 7.2% to global mortality. The biggest contributor was Nigeria (28.7%), followed by India and the Democratic Republic of Congo (7.2%), and then, Pakistan (4.1%). "The comparison is not entirely fair when considering the total populations of the countries (Nigeria: 23.26 crore, India: 145 crore),'' said the Ministry.

Jainism's values offer answers to many global challenges: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said that values enshrined by Jainism offer answers to global challenges of terrorism, war, and environmental degradation. He added that his government was committed to preserving the teachings of the ancient religion. Speaking at an event marking 'Navkar Mahamantra Divas' in New Delhi, Mr. Modi noted that the influence of Jainism, including idols of Tirthankaras (spiritual teachers), was visible in the new Parliament building. He stated that Jainism recognises the interdependence of all life and therefore prohibits violence in any form, offering profound lessons for peace, harmony, and environmental protection.

New scheme to modernise irrigation network gets Cabinet nod

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved "Modernisation of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM)" as a sub-scheme of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

This initiative, with an initial outlay of ₹1,600 crore, is set to run from 2025-26 and is designed to enhance the irrigation infrastructure in India.

Its key goal is to modernise the irrigation water supply network, ensuring that water reaches the designated farming clusters from existing canals or other water sources. This will help farmers, a note from the Jal Shakti Ministry said, with small land-holdings, by improving water-use efficiency through the use of advanced technologies such as Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and the Internet of Things.

In addition to modernising the irrigation systems, the scheme aims to build sustainable farming practices in the country.

'Revise Aadhaar law to sync with personal data protection Act'

Vaishnaw says India has an indigenous, modern legal framework, and the two laws should be harmonised; he asks UIDAI to keep citizens as focus

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday asked the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to come up with a new law for Aadhaar that is compatible with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

Mr. Vaishnaw made the request at an Aadhaar *Samvaad* (debate) event.

"When the Aadhaar Act was passed [in 2016], there was no horizontal privacy law covering all sectors," Mr. Vaishnaw said. "Now, we have the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and the rules for the Act are almost finalised and will be notified soon. We have an indigenous, modern legal framework. Now we need to see how the Aadhaar law can be harmonised vis-à-vis the DPDP Act."

Lofty goals: IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw lays emphasis on public convenience as a priority for new Aadhaar law. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The DPDP Act lays out requirements for firms and government bodies to protect citizens' personal data, and provides for penalties in case of data breaches or leaks.

Notification soon

The draft rules to enforce the Act have not yet been notified; a draft is in the final stages of consultation, and is likely to be notified in the coming weeks.

"That is a task I would request the UIDAI to take up in a major way going forward," Mr. Vaishnaw said. The programme was attended by UIDAI officials and Aadhaar ecosystem partners.

Mr. Vaishnaw unveiled the look of the revamped Aadhaar mobile app, which will be rolled out to the public after testing.

Mr. Vaishnaw emphasised public convenience as a priority for the new law. He said the UIDAI should consider "what a modern Aadhaar Act should contain to keep the common citizen at the centre."

Victim's mother files plea in SC against HC order on rape attempt

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court had said the order of the Allahabad High Court was 'totally insensitive'.

The mother of a minor victim who was sexually attacked and partially disrobed by two men joined cause in a *suo motu* case instituted by the Supreme Court against an Allahabad High Court order which refused to see the assault as an attempted rape.

A single Judge of the High Court had said the men could be at best charged with the lesser offence of "outraging of modesty", and not attempted rape, for sexually assaulting the child.

According to the prosecution, the duo had given the victim a lift on their bike, grabbed her breasts, broke the string of her pyjama and tried to drag her beneath a culvert before they fled when passers-by spotted them.

"The action, committed with clear sexual intent, are direct steps in furtherance of rape and should not be dismissed as mere 'outraging of modesty'. It is submitted the respondents [accused] did not stop committing the crime voluntarily, rather they were forced to flee the scene," the petition filed by the mother along with an NGO, Just Rights for Children Alliance, argued.

The petition, represented by senior advocate H.S. Phoolka, came up for hearing before a Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai. The Bench tagged the plea with the *suo motu* case, which would come up on April 15.

The plea said the High Court had failed to consider other cognisable offences against the accused, the abduction and procuration of a minor girl for illicit intercourse, besides attempted rape. The Supreme Court, in late March, had stayed the Allahabad High Court order of March 17.

The court remarked the order of the High Court was "totally insensitive, inhuman".

India, U.K. optimistic about trade deal, but deny Trump tariffs causing added urgency

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her British counterpart, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves, appeared optimistic on Wednesday that the two countries could conclude a trade and investment deal soon. They were both however careful to de-link the discussions – which have been under way since January 2022 – to the April 2 worldwide tariff announcement by U.S. President Donald Trump.

"The U.K.-India partnership dialogue is not really in response to the global uncertainties...we've been participating in this with the old bonds coming to our mind," Ms. Sitharaman told reporters at a joint briefing with Ms. Reeves, held at the London Stock Exchange at the conclusion of the 13th U.K.-India Economic and Financial Dialogue.

Bilateral exchange: Rachel Reeves and Nirmala Sitharaman shake hands following the India-U.K. financial dialogue on Wednesday. AP

Ms. Reeves also agreed that the dialogue was not a response to tariffs by third countries. Nevertheless, some finance and business leaders believe the chaos in the markets and global economy is a reason to conclude a deal.

"Global trade is entering a new era, where strategic alliances and trade agreements are more crucial than ever," the Lord Mayor of London, Alastair King, said in a statement. The Lord Mayor is the chief administrator of the City of London – which is the financial district of the city. Ms. Sitharaman participated in a business roundtable with Mr. King and U.K. Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds earlier on Wednesday.

"In the face of global developments, it is imperative that we think creatively and act in partnership," said the chief of Standard Chartered, Bill Winters, who co-chairs the India-U.K. Financial Partnership with Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO Uday Kotak.

'Time to conclude talks'

"We've had quite a lot of discussions, which was well worth it, but now it's the time to conclude [the negotiations]," Ms. Sitharaman said, noting there was a "great sense of positivity" about finalising an agreement.

"[We] very much hope to be able to secure a deal... we're not waiting for a free trade agreement to boost trade and investment between our countries," Ms. Reeves said, pointing to some of the day's announcements.

The two sides said they looked forward to signing the India-U.K. Defence Industrial Roadmap, in a joint statement issued on Wednesday evening. The U.K. welcomed the recent announcements by the government on rationalisation in the taxation of foreign corporates and the enhanced limit of 100% FDI in the insurance sector. The sides agreed to explore the role that London could play in supporting the internationalisation of India's currency. The joint statement also refers to a number of other areas: from the formalisation of cooperation between the two countries' financial conduct authorities to debt-restructuring for low and middle-income countries and climate finance.

On a bilateral investment treaty that the two sides are negotiating in parallel to the trade deal, Ms Sitharaman said the two sides were working out "difficulties that we've had on just a few matters" but expressed optimism a deal would be concluded.

On the Trump tariffs, Ms. Reeves said "nothing is off the table", in terms of a possible response from the U.K., which has not retaliated yet. She argued, however, that a knee-jerk reaction could make the situation worse.

Indian banks win appeal against Mallya in U.K. court

Press Trust of India
LONDON

A consortium of Indian banks, led by the State Bank of India, on Wednesday won a court appeal in London to uphold a bankruptcy order against Vijay Mallya in a long-standing legal battle seeking repayment of a judgment debt owed by his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines.

High Court judge Anthony Mann ruled in favour of the banks to allow an appeal heard in February, while refusing two applications seeking permission to appeal filed by the 69-year-old businessman, declared a fugitive and wanted for fraud and money laundering charges in India.

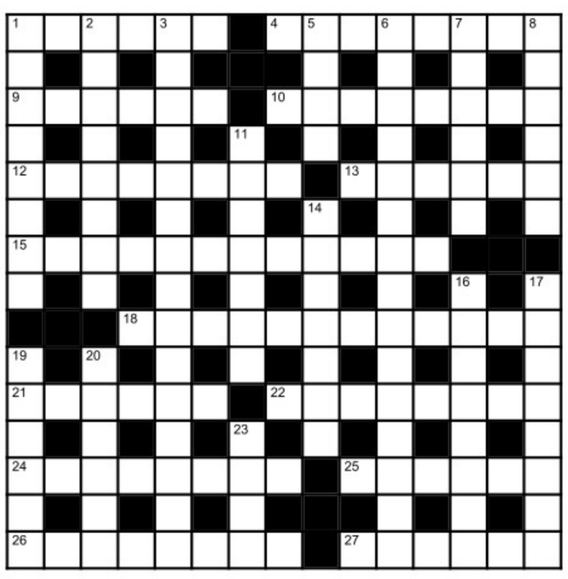
Law firm TLT LLP, representing the banks, noted that the ruling confirmed the banks did not hold security over Mr. Mallya's assets and that the bankruptcy petition was correct.

TH CROSSWORD + 14455

(set by Pixie Dust)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Supreme Court, on edge with European Conspiracy (6)
4 Spooner's old man puts money on uncollectible bills (3,5)
9 Extremely bizarre and unfinished comical model for a roundel (6)
10 Interesting branch of Engineering? Mechanical perhaps? (8)
12 Marry without token of commitment in gathering (8)
13 Look! Ads upset city periodically (6)
15 Sadly, aunt's here in a distressing medical condition (12)
18 Frequently used devious escort in negotiation (12)
21 Tool switch is electrical partly (6)
22 Sinful - be repulsed surrounded by food (8)
24 Neat brushes for hanging locks? (8)
25 They have layers and layers in views without perceptual intelligence to begin with (6)
26 Full of oneself - must nag or rant, intrinsically stuck-up (8)
27 Briefly abandoned, Pixie Dust leaves top of the church tower (6)

Down

1 Carol's out of body experience, right? It's daunting (8)
2 Filbert's confusion initially labelled eccentric (8)
3 My one illegal activity? (5,10)
5 Hurt a revolutionary (4)
6 Cosmetic, Denise manufactured around beginning of course in Home Economics class (8,7)
7 Gallant alien's vessel (6)
8 Cook welcomes liberal praise (6)
11 One more article parent failed to initiate (7)
14 Extremely thirsty associate went out for lemonade, finally rested (7)
16 Greeting bird with love, very loudly - (established a natural connection) (3,2,3)
17 Honestly (incongruously) like a thief in the night! (2,3,3)
19 Originally, ants created a comfortable inhabitation around spiny tree (6)
20 Compete eagerly with Queen's witness (6)
23 Similar to some matchmaking (4)

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6485 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

E	A	D				I	C		P	L				
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E	S	Q	U	I	R	E		M	A	E	S	T	R	O
		U		G		S		P		N				P
A	W	A	S	H			S	O	L	I	T	A	I	R	E
D		G		B				A				N		R
J	U	M	B	O		C	A	T	A	L	O	G	U	E
U		I		U		A	E		O		L		T	
S	U	R	P	R	I	S	E		P	A	T	E	N	T
T		E		S		H			F		S		A	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	8	5	1	3	4	7	2	6
4	6	7	2	8	9	1	3	5
1	3	2	6	7	5	4	8	9
3	1	4	8	5	2	9	6	7
7	5	6	3	9	1	8	4	2
8	2	9	7	4	6	3	5	1
6	9	8	5	1	3	2	7	4
5	7	1	4	2	8	6	9	3
2	4	3	9	6	7	5	1	8

FAITH

Tiruppanazhwar's greatness

One of the 12 azhwars, Tiruppanazhwar has sung in praise of Lord Ranganatha in 10 verses, known as "Amalanadhipiran." He is the manifestation of Srivathsa, a divine symbol on the right side of Lord Vishnu's chest that represents auspiciousness. He has praised the Lord from His holy feet to His head. The story of Tiruppanazhwar is a prime example of treating everyone equally before God, regardless of caste, creed, or religion.

Tirukkudandhai Dr. Venkatesh said in a discourse that the apostle has incorporated all the essential qualities of God into his composition. The azhwar has used the letters AUM (found in the sacred syllable OM) as the first letter of the first three verses. Using as the beginning of the letters Pa, Du, and Kai (denoting the divine sandals of the Lord), he composed the sixth, seventh and eighth verses.

Typically, when an impure object is combined with a pure one, the latter becomes contaminated, losing its original purity and identity. But when we, the unclean, go to the temple and worship God – the blemishless and the purest – He will not change but will turn us good. This is denoted by the term "Amalan." "Aadhi" refers to the God everyone likes, cherishes, and admires. "Piran" refers to the same God who extends all help to His devotees. Lord Ranganatha is referred to as Amalan Aadhi Piran by the azhwar. Usually, in Naalayira Divya Prabhandham, the azhwars mention their name and the benefits of reciting the same at the end of each decad. However, Tiruppanazhwar did not mention his name or the benefits of reciting it, as he was confident that God would shower His blessings and grant moksha to those who recited it.

INBRIEF

SEBI appoints high-level panel to review conflict of interest

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a high-level committee to review conflict of interest among board members and employees of the regulator, in line with the decision made at its board meeting last month. The committee will be chaired by former chief vigilance commissioner Pratyush Sinha and comprise retired bureacrats besides Kotak Mahindra Bank founder Uday Kotak and former IIM Bangalore professor R. Narayanaswamy.

Indian Bank announces cut in repo-linked benchmark rate

Indian Bank has announced a reduction in its repo-linked benchmark lending rate (RBLR) from 9.05% to 8.70% effective April 11. The RBLR is being reduced by 0.35% (35 basis points), directly reflecting the decrease in the RBI's repo rate, the lender said on Wednesday. The move will lower borrowing costs for the customers with loans linked to RBLR such as home loans and business loans. Depending on their loan terms, customers may benefit from reduced EMIs, the lender said.

Coromandel International ties up with Saudi miner Ma'aden

Agriculture solutions provider Coromandel International and Saudi Arabian mining company Ma'aden, which is one of the world's largest producers of phosphate fertilisers, have signed an MoU for long-term supply of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and NP/NPK fertilisers. The latest agreement marks a significant milestone in expanding this collaboration, ensuring a reliable and sustainable supply of essential fertilisers to support Indian agriculture, Coromandel said.

RBI prescribes norms for gold loans as part of new regulations

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

In a bid to safeguard interest of borrowers, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday issued draft guidelines on prudential norms and conduct-related aspects for gold loans urging lenders to have uniform documentation for such instruments.

The RBI announced that regulations for issuing gold loans will be harmonised across all regulated entities among four other regulatory and developmental policies in the banking ecosystem.

Importantly, the central bank has proposed to fix the upper limit for lending at 75% of the value of 22-carat gold, decided by either closing prices on commodity exchange, preceding day price of the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd., or the average of closing prices in the preceding 30 days. The regulation will also include 999 purity silver.

The banking regulator also proposed to lay down a single borrower limit and sectoral limit of lending, procedure to value the gold, a mechanism to determine end-use and the loan-to-value ratio among others in the RBI (Lending Against Gold Collateral) Directions, 2025, according to the draft document.

The directions, if passed will apply to all lending financial institutions, excluding payment banks.

(With PTI inputs)

India better off than others in tariff row: RBI Governor

Considering India's low volume exports to the U.S. and a comparatively smaller trade surplus, the adverse impact on India will be far less in intensity compared with most countries, says Malhotra

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The tariff war unleashed by U.S. President Donald Trump and its global implications have forced the Reserve Bank of India's monitory policy body to cut growth rate by 20 basis points (100 basis point is 1%) for FY25, as resultant economic uncertainties underpinned the decision.

"The growth projection for the current year has been marked down by 20 basis points relative to our earlier assessment of 6.7% in the February policy. This downward revision essentially reflects the impact of global trade and policy uncertainties," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said in his monetary policy statement on Wednesday.

But considering India's low volume exports to the U.S. and comparatively less trade surplus, the adverse impact on India would be far less in intensity compared with most countries, he said at a press meet post the MPC meeting.

"The impact would be different for other countries depending on the situation that they are in. For India, we have given our assessment as you can see, the growth rate we have reduced by 20 basis points this year, primarily arising out of the uncertainties," Mr. Malhotra said replying to *The Hindu*.

"And on the inflation front, we have said it can move actually both ways because of the demand that is going to shrink as a result of the trade tariff friction. It may help the inflation front. So all in all, more than inflation, we are concerned about its impact on growth," he said.

Mr. Malhotra said the impact of these tariffs on India compared with other countries would be much less. "Our overall exports are about 12% of GDP, and it is about 2% for USA. You compare it with some other countries... even for China it is about 19%, Germany 37% exports overall and even EU is 30% plus. And several smaller countries have about 80% (of their GDP is exports). So to that extent we are in a better place than some of the other countries." he highlighted.

"And so we have, in some ways a competitive advantage vis-à-vis some of these countries insofar as the USA is concerned."

About the likely impact of China's possible move to devalue its own currency, on the Indian rupee, he said the rupee would find its own level and in case of excessive volatility, the RBI would intervene.

"Our currency is quite stable. We have sufficient reserves, almost $700 billion, and our deficits are also again very sustainable for this year and next year. I really don't think, we are under any kind of a stress or stressful position," he emphasised.

Small mercies

The impact of U.S. tariffs on India vis-à-vis some of the other countries would be much less, says RBI Governor, elaborating why:

- India's overall exports are about 12% of GDP, it is about 2% for the U.S.
- For China it is about 19%, Germany 37% exports overall and for EU it is 30% plus
- Several smaller countries have about 80%, hence the competitive advantage

Centre assures exporters of support

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The government has assured exporters that it will provide a conducive environment to enable them to navigate the recent changes in the global trade environment, according to an official press release.

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal held a meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday with representatives of export promotion councils and industry bodies and deliberated on the impact and opportunities.

Mr. Goyal pointed out that in 2024-2025, Indian exports were $820 billion, which is nearly 6% growth over previous fiscal year.

He also apprised the exporters of discussions with the U.S. for a mutually beneficial multi-sectoral Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). The government is working to expedite the agreement, exploring 'the right mix and the right balance' and is not in 'undue haste' so that there is the right outcome for the country. He added that different countries are approaching the tariff imposition in a different manner. However, for India there is a potential to increase manufacturing.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	73,847	-0.51
US Dollar	86.68	-0.48
Gold	90,200	-1.15
Brent oil	60.56	-5.50

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2236.90	-48.80
Adani Ports	1131.80	0.45
Apollo Hosp	6834.10	78.50
Asian Paints	2411.15	16.95
Axis Bank	1061.65	-16.20
Bajaj Auto	7572.30	74.25
Bajaj Finserv	1895.70	-7.50
Bajaj Finance	8735.80	-86.45
Bharat Elec	280.15	-1.30
Bharti Airtel	1715.55	-4.85
Cipla	1415.60	-16.95
Coal India	374.60	-8.25
Dr Reddys Lab	1094.05	-13.90
Eicher Motors	5258.30	26.95
Eternal Ltd.	211.39	-3.80
Grasim Ind	2557.75	-32.30
HCL Tech	1380.00	-23.35
HDFC Bank	1765.00	-4.15
HDFC Life	684.80	-0.95
Hero MotoCorp	3610.90	36.75
Hindalco	564.00	-4.35
Hind Unilever	2350.00	60.75
ICICI Bank	1300.80	0.90
IndusInd Bank	678.55	-1.10
Infosys	1403.70	-25.10
ITC	416.30	3.75
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	220.92	-3.89
JSW Steel	945.55	-9.05
Kotak Bank	2052.70	-2.45
L&T	3054.15	-106.95
M&M	2523.10	-0.55
Maruti Suzuki	11457.40	-1.50
NestleIndia	2344.85	69.45
NTPC	349.35	-3.60
ONGC	221.94	-4.72
PowerGrid Corp	293.40	4.45
Reliance Ind	1185.35	3.15
SBI Life	1481.65	-6.35
State Bank	742.20	-26.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	624.55	-16.90
Sun Pharma	1652.20	-36.15
TataConsumerProduct	1089.75	20.00
Tata Motors	582.90	-5.95
Tata Steel	127.18	-3.10
TCS	3246.60	-46.35
Tech Mahindra	1272.75	-41.65
Titan	3174.15	51.85
Trent Ltd.	4620.20	-147.00
UltraTech Cement	11397.05	126.60
Wipro	236.65	-10.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 09

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.49	86.81
Euro	95.55	95.90
British Pound	110.75	111.16
Japanese Yen (100)	59.73	59.95
Chinese Yuan	11.77	11.81
Swiss Franc	103.08	103.48
Singapore Dollar	64.14	64.40
Canadian Dollar	60.88	61.10
Malaysian Ringitt	19.23	19.32
Australian Dollar	51.86	52.06

Source:Indian Bank

RBI plans market-based route to securitise bad bank assets

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to introduce securitisation of stressed assets via market mechanism to ease the burden of stressed assets on the lenders.

The policy will enable lenders with stressed assets to bundle into tradeable securities to share the risk of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs).

"It is proposed to enable securitisation of stressed assets through market-based mechanism. This is in addition to the existing ARC (Asset Reconstruction Company) route under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002," RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said.

Breathing easy: The draft is aimed at reducing the burden of non-performing assets on the lenders. REUTERS

The securitisation process will be performed by a resolution manager (RM) who will be appointed by a special purpose entity (SPE), the RBI proposed in a draft. The banking regulator also proposed valuation methods, capital requirements for investors, disclosures to be made, among others, in the draft document. The securitised asset can be sold to an SPE only for cash.

The RBI also proposed re-securitisation, synthetic securitisation, farm credit, education loan , fraudulent account and wilful default, among others, will not be eligible for securitisation.

Airbus, Mahindra ally for helicopter fuselages

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

European aerospace manufacturer Airbus said it has awarded a contract for making the main fuselage assembly of the H130 helicopter to Mahindra Aerostructures Pvt. Ltd. in India.

Mahindra will produce the H130's main fuselage assembly which will then be shipped to Airbus Helicopters' facilities in Europe. The manufacturing will start immediately with the first cabin assembly set for March 2027 delivery.

The H130 is an intermediate single-engine helicopter used for passenger transport, tourism, business aviation, medical airlift and surveillance.

IRDAI fines Flipkart for violation of norms

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

IRDAI fined Flipkart Internet Pvt. Ltd. (FIPL) ₹1.06 crore for violating insurance norms.

The ₹1 crore fine was for violating Insurance E-commerce Guidelines 2017, which says an insurance intermediary can enroll only insurers to the extent allowed on its Insurance Self-Network Platform (ISNP). No other insurance intermediary/ agent is allowed.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) Member (Distribution) Satyajit Tripathy and Member (F&I) Rajay Kumar Sinha in the order said Flipkart's ISNP certification was for online solicitation of insurance policies with insurers. It was found when a client clicked on the insurance/ buy insurance button on the website, he/she was redirected to another insurance intermediary's web page where purchase was completed. The financial arrangement between FIPL and the insurance intermediary was potentially linked to insurance redirection, violating norms.

The ₹6 lakh penalty imposed by IRDAI was for continuing with the sale of insurance policies after applying for renewal of its certificate of registration.

A Flipkart spokesperson in a statement said, "We are currently evaluating the contents of the order."

RBI mulls to expand, boost co-lending

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed a draft framework for co-lending arrangements between all regulated entities, as the current regulation deals only with co-lending between banks and non-banking financial companies.

"The extant guidelines on co-lending are presently applicable only to arrangements between banks and NBFCs. Moreover, they are restricted to priority sector loans. To exploit the huge potential of such lending arrangements, it is proposed to extend them to all regulated entities and to all loans - priority sector or otherwise," said RBI Governor Sanjay Mahotra as part of additional regulatory steps on Wednesday.

Co-lending Arrangement (CLA) involves two financial institutions eligible under RBI directions, issuing loans based on a predetermined proportion of lending. Banks that co-lend to priority sector can claim priority sector status.

The guidelines will now be applicable for all commercial banks, NBFCs and will exclude RRBs, SFBs and Local Area Banks. The RBI proposed the credit policy of the banks that take part in co-lending must disclose the targeted customer segment, terms and conditions of loan and internal limit on borrower portfolio, among others.

Mastering the Art of Reading Nutrition Labels

Understanding nutrition labels can be one of the most empowering skills in your journey toward better health. Whether you are managing a medical condition, watching your weight, or simply aiming to eat healthier, decoding the nutritional information on packaged foods offers valuable insights that help you make informed decisions.

Why Label Reading Matters

Nutrition labels are more than tiny text – they offer a transparent breakdown of a packaged product's nutritional value, well beyond glossy packaging or eye-catching marketing slogans like "natural" or "low-fat". They help spot essential nutrients, detect allergens, avoid potentially harmful ingredients, and steer clear of deceptive health claims.

Cracking the Nutrition Label Code

Start by checking the serving size, which indicates the amount to be consumed in one sitting (1 cup, 1 piece). Pay attention to the number of servings, as all nutritional information – calories, fats, sugars, and more – is based on a single serving. Consuming more than one serving means you will need to adjust the numbers accordingly.

Terms like "low-fat" or "multigrain" don't always mean the product is healthy. Low-fat food may be packed with added sugar. Multigrain doesn't guarantee whole grains or fibre.

Anita Jatana
Consultant Dietetics
Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi

Next, check the calorie count, which indicates the energy provided per serving. Then review the macronutrients:

- **Fat:** Aim for lower amounts of saturated fat and avoid trans fats, as both are linked to cardiovascular disease.
- **Carbohydrates:** Choose foods with fibre-rich complex carbs like whole grains and legumes, which support digestion and help regulate blood sugar.
- **Protein:** Good sources of protein include lentils, eggs, nuts, low-fat dairy, and yogurt – essential for muscle repair and immunity.

Look out for vitamins and minerals too. Many diets lack calcium, iron, and vitamin D. Foods rich in these nutrients can help fill nutritional gaps. The % Daily Value (%DV) is another key metric; it indicates how much nutrient in a single serving contributes to your total daily intake – under 5% is low, over 20% is high. Aim for high %DV in fibre, vitamins, and essential minerals, and low %DV in saturated fat, sodium, and added sugars.

Decoding the Ingredient List

Ingredients are listed in descending order by weight, meaning the first few make up the bulk of the product. Watch out for long ingredient lists filled with artificial preservatives or additives.

Sugar is often disguised under names like sucrose, dextrose, corn syrup, maltose, and honey. Check for "added sugars" – added during processing – which are in addition to naturally-occurring sugars. Check for non-nutritive sweeteners. Natural options like stevia and monk fruit extract are considered safe in moderation.

Salt is another common culprit. Hidden sources of Sodium may appear under names like monosodium glutamate (MSG), sodium benzoate, or disodium phosphate. Excess sodium is associated with high blood pressure, a major risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

Conclusion

Learning to read nutrition labels is a simple yet powerful habit. With just a bit of practice, it becomes second nature – equipping you with the knowledge to make healthier, safer choices for you and your family. It has also been identified as a promising strategy to encourage manufacturers to improve the nutritional composition of their products.

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or email us at sincerelyyourdoctor@thehindu.co.in
with your name, city and query.

PARIS

France plans Palestinian state recognition at June UN conference

AFP

France is planning to recognise a Palestinian state within months and could make the move at a UN conference in New York in June on settling the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, President Emmanuel Macron said on Wednesday. He aims to co-chair this event with Saudi Arabia. AFP

TALLINN

Estonia limits voting rights for Russian minority amid concerns

AFP

Estonia's President Alar Karis signed into law a constitutional amendment banning non-EU citizens, mainly Russians, from taking part in local elections. This move aims at protecting Estonian unity amid security concerns following Russia's Ukraine invasion. It affects about 80,000 Russians in Estonia. AFP

PANAMA CITY

Won't allow China to 'weaponise' Panama Canal, says Pentagon chief

AFP

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth vowed to counter China's influence over the Panama Canal, sparking a rebuke from Beijing. Mr. Hegseth stated that China does not operate the canal and will not weaponise it, while Beijing on Wednesday accused the U.S. of "bullying" and undermining cooperation. AFP

HODEIDA

Yemen's Houthis say U.S. strikes on Hodeida killed eight, injured 16

AFP

Yemen's Houthi rebels reported on Wednesday that a U.S.-linked air strike in Hodeida killed eight people, including four children and two women, and injured 16. The strike targeted a residential area in the Red Sea port city, part of ongoing U.S. operations against Houthi threats to maritime routes. AFP

U.S. imposes new sanctions on Iran nuclear programme ahead of talks

Tehran's 'reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons remains a grave threat to the U.S. and a menace to regional stability, global security', says Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent; Iran's President Pezeshkian says his nation is 'not after a nuclear bomb'

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN/WASHINGTON

The U.S. on Wednesday announced new sanctions targeting Iran's nuclear programme ahead of closely watched talks on the row between the longtime adversaries.

The Treasury Department said it was imposing sanctions under additional authorities on five entities including the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran and one individual over the contested nuclear programme.

In practical terms, the move is symbolic as the U.S. already enforces sweeping sanctions on Iran and particularly its nuclear programme, whose scientists have also been the target of an assassination campaign attributed to Israel. But the sanctions are the latest show of pressure by the U.S. ahead of the talks, which are set to take place Saturday in Oman.

Show of pressure: A file photo of the Natanz Uranium Enrichment Facility buildings, located in the Isfahan province of Iran. AP

"The Iranian regime's reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons remains a grave threat to the United States and a menace to regional stability and global security," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement, vowing to "disrupt any attempt by Iran to advance its nuclear program".

Diplomatic solution

Mr. Trump, who ripped up an earlier nuclear accord during his first time, has voiced hope for a diplomatic solution but has repeatedly warned of the use of force if talks fail.

Iran's reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian pledged Wednesday that his nation is "not after a nuclear bomb", going as far as dangling the prospect of direct American investment in the Islamic Republic if the countries can reach a deal.

"His excellency has no opposition to investment by American investors in Iran," Mr. Pezeshkian said in a speech in Tehran, referring to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "American investors: Come and invest."

"We are not after a nuclear bomb," Mr. Pezeshkian added. "You (in the West) have verified it 100 times. Do it 1,000 times again."

China rebuts claim that its troops are aiding Russia

Associated Press

Ukraine's claim that significant numbers of Chinese nationals are fighting alongside Russia's invading Army is "totally unfounded," a Beijing official said on Wednesday.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced on Tuesday that the Ukrainian military had captured two Chinese men fighting alongside the Russian Army in the eastern Donetsk region and had information that "significantly more" are with Russian forces.

It was the first time that Ukraine had made such a claim about Chinese fighters on its soil amid Russia's almost three-year invasion.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian said in Beijing that China has played a "constructive role in politically resolving the Ukraine crisis".

Lin Jian

Mr. Lin told a daily news briefing on Wednesday that "the Chinese government always asks Chinese citizens to stay away from conflict zones, avoid getting involved in any form of armed conflict, and especially refrain from participating in any party's military operations".

His comments appeared to indicate that the captured Chinese had joined Russia's ranks on their own initiative.

China has provided strong diplomatic support for Russia since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of its neighbour in February 2022.

Beijing has also offered an economic lifeline through the trade in energy and consumer goods, but has not knowingly provided Russia with troops, weapons or military expertise.

U.S. State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said at a briefing in Washington on Tuesday that the U.S. was "aware" of the reports that Chinese citizens fighting on behalf of Russia were caught in Ukraine and called them "disturbing."

Germany is back on track, says Merz as he unveils plan for govt.

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

Germany's next leader, the conservative Friedrich Merz, vowed on Wednesday to "move the country forward again" by boosting the economy and defence as he presented a deal to launch his coalition government by early next month.

Mr. Merz is set to take over as leader of Europe's top economy just as U.S. President Donald Trump has sparked global trade turmoil.

Asked at a news conference if he had a message for Trump, Mr. Merz said that the country would meet its defence obligations and rebuild its economic competitiveness. "Germany is back on track," he added.

Friedrich Merz

Following the February election victory of his CDU/CSU alliance, Mr. Merz has struck a deal to forge a new government with the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD).

Israeli strike on Gaza apartment building kills at least 23 people

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israel said it struck a Hamas militant who it said was behind attacks emanating from Shijaiyah

Israeli aircraft struck a residential block in war-ravaged northern Gaza on Wednesday, killing at least 23 people, health officials said, as the renewed fighting in the devastated Palestinian enclave showed no signs of letting up.

The Al-Ahly hospital said at least 23 people were killed in the strike, including eight women and eight children, figures confirmed by the territory's Health Ministry.

The strike hit a four-story building in the Shijaiyah neighborhood of Gaza City and rescue teams were searching for victims under the rubble, according to the Health Ministry's emergency service. The civil defence, a rescue group which operates under the Hamas-run government, said other neighbouring buildings were damaged in the strike.

The Israeli military said it struck a senior Hamas militant who it said was behind attacks emanating from Shijaiyah, but did not name him or provide further details.

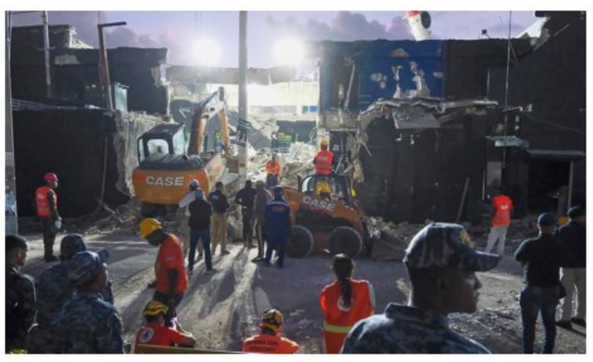
Casualties from Dominican Republic nightclub roof collapse climb to 124

Agence France-Presse
SANTO DOMINGO

Rescuers rushed to find survivors on Wednesday after the roof of a Dominican Republic nightclub collapsed during a concert by popular singer Rubby Perez, one of at least 124 people killed in the disaster. At least 155 were injured, authorities said.

Rescue workers were pressing on with the search effort, now limited more to recovering bodies from the rubble over a day after the roof caved in.

Renowned Dominican merengue singer Perez, who was performing at the Jet Set nightclub for hundreds of people when the roof collapsed shortly after midnight Tuesday, was one of those killed, his manager said. Relatives of clubgoers gathered around the disaster site in the capital Santo Domingo as rescuers ferried the injured to hospital, and used a crane to remove debris.



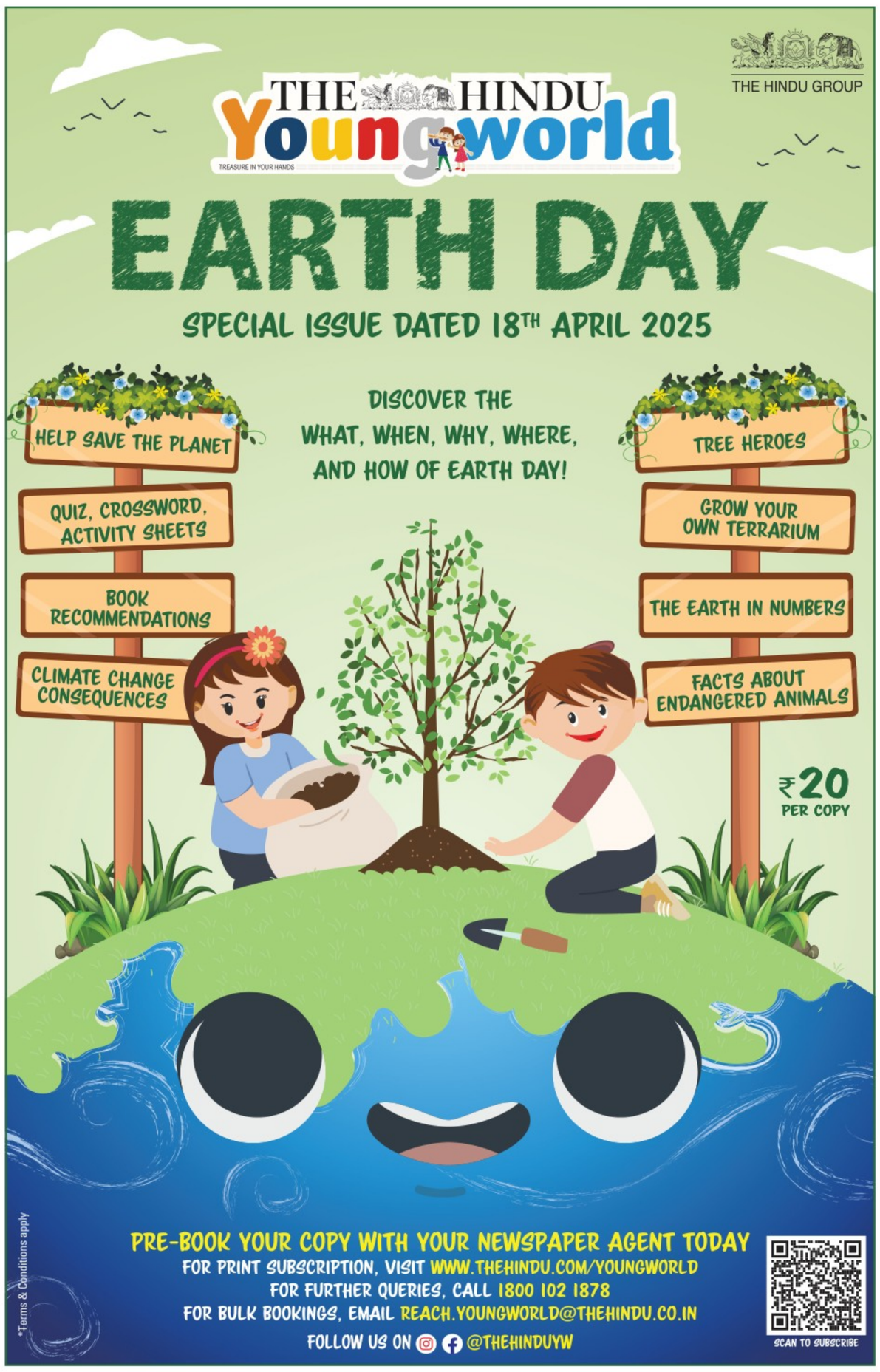
Tragic scene: Rescue workers search for survivors at the nightclub after its roof collapsed during a concert in Santo Domingo. AP

About 300 rescue workers combed mounds of fallen bricks, steel bars and tin sheets for survivors, supported by personnel from Puerto Rico and Israel, said Juan Mendez, director of the Emergency Operations Centre.

Local media said there were between 500 and 1,000 people in the club when disaster struck at around 12.44 a.m. on Tuesday. The club has capacity for about 1,700 people. The club issued a statement on Tuesday saying it was working "fully and transparently" with authorities.

The Jet Set collapse was one of the biggest tragedies the Caribbean nation and top tourist destination has faced in recent years.

Tourism generates about 15% of GDP in the country, with millions of annual visitors attracted by its music, nightlife, Caribbean beaches and the colonial architecture of the capital.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SOLID BACKING

Karthik believes I can play shots all around the circle, says Jitesh

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma credited RCB batting coach Dinesh Karthik for expanding his range of shots. “The shots I’m playing now are a replica of what Karthik used to play. I’ve never tried those shots. He believes that I can play shots all around the circle — 360 degrees. He has created a new player in me,” he said.

ADAPTIVE

What separates Rahul from others is his ability to bat anywhere: Mott

K. MURALI KUMAR

Delhi Capitals assistant coach Matthew Mott stated that K.L. Rahul’s ability to bat at any spot makes him a special player. “What separates Rahul from a lot of people is his ability to bat anywhere. He's a class player. It was amazing to see him come in and open the innings at short notice,” Mott said.

FLEMINGSPEAK

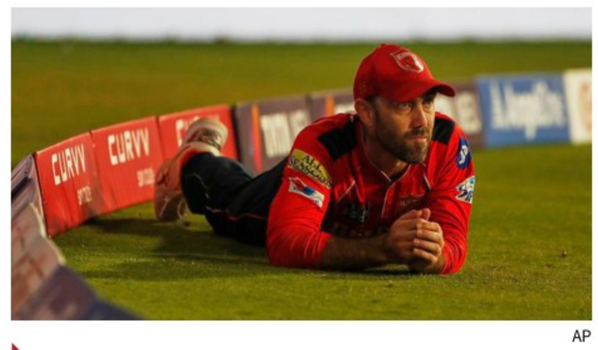
‘We batted a bit better, got some substance from the top-order’

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Well, positive-wise, we batted a bit better. We got some substance from the top-order. We just weren’t able to keep the run rate at a good level through the middle, and it just left too much towards the end. But we’ve been out of games, so to be in a game for a lot longer is a positive aspect — CSK coach Stephen Fleming.

PENALTY

Maxwell fined, handed one demerit point for breaching Code of Conduct



AP

Punjab Kings all-rounder Glenn Maxwell has been fined 25 per cent of his match fee and handed one demerit point for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the match against Chennai Super Kings. Maxwell has admitted to the Level 1 offence under article 2.2 which relates to abuse of fixtures and fittings.

Sai Sudharsan, Prasidh propel Titans to the top of the table

The opener scores his third half-century of the season while the pacer takes three wickets as the host beats Royals by 58 runs; Buttler and Shahrukh weigh in with quickfire knocks; Hetmyer wages a lonely battle with a 32-ball 52

IPL-18

P.K. Ajith Kumar
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Titans’ investment in B. Sai Sudharsan is paying off handsomely. He was bought for his base price of ₹20 lakh by GT for its maiden season.

He was retained ahead of this year’s IPL for ₹8.5 crore. His reputation as one of India’s finest young batters continues to grow just as impressively.

Sai Sudharsan on Wednesday night gave another exhibition of his exceptional skills as a top-order batter at the Narendra Modi Stadium. The left-handed opener from Tamil Nadu made a sparkling 82 off 53 balls (8x4, 3x6) to help the Titans post their fourth win in a row. Chasing 218, Rajasthan Royals could make only 159, the host thus winning by 58 runs.

This was the third fifty of the season in five innings for Sai Sudharsan; he had struck 49 in another. He lost his opening partner Shubman Gill early though. The GT captain was bowled by the pace and movement of Jofra Archer, who has been on a remarkable comeback after his disastrous, record-breaking spell against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Sai Sudharsan, however, found an able ally in Jos Buttler, on whom there was much focus as the England batter was making his first appearance against his old team for which he had scored more than 3,000 runs. They put on 80 for the second wicket before Buttler (36, 25b, 5x4) fell lbw, on review, to Maheesh Theekshana.

On a roll: Sai Sudharsan came up with another splendid innings. VIJAY SONEJI

Sai Sudharsan continued to pace his innings superbly. And he displayed a wide array of strokes, as he drove, cut and lofted with panache.

At the other end, there was some hard-hitting by M. Shahrukh Khan (36, 20b, 4x4, 2x6) and Rahul Tewatia (24 not out, 12b) to ensure GT made enough runs after being asked to bat first.

The Royals needed a bright start if they were to chase down that stiff target. But they lost two early wickets, and though skipper Sanju Samson and Riyan Parag added 48 for the third wicket, it was always going to be a tough ask. Shimron Hetmyer (52, 32b, 4x4, 3x6) did make an attempt, though, before he became one of Prasidh Krishna’s three victims.

Next assignment

GT: April 12 vs LSG
Lucknow, 3.30 p.m

RR: April 13 vs RCB
Jaipur, 3.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS

B. Sai Sudharsan c Samson b Deshpande 82 *(53b, 8x4, 3x6)*, Shubman Gill b Archer 2 *(3b)*, Jos Buttler lbw b Theekshana 36 *(25b, 5x4)*, M. Shahrukh Khan st. Samson b Theekshana 36 *(20b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Sherfane Rutherford c Samson b Sandeep 7 *(3b, 1x6)*, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 24 *(12b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Rashid Khan c Jaiswal b Desphande 12 *(4b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Arshad Khan (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (b-1, w-17) 18; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 217.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-14 (Gill, 2.1 overs), 2-94 (Buttler, 9.6), 3-156 (Shahrukh, 15.4), 4-163 (Rutherford, 16.1), 5-187 (Sai Sudharsan 18.2), 6-201 (Rashid 18.6).

ROYALS BOWLING

Archer 4-0-30-1, Farooqi 4-0-38-0, Deshpande 4-0-53-2, Sandeep 4-0-41-1, Theekshana 4-0-54-2.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Yashasvi Jaiswal c Rashid b Arshad 6 *(7b, 1x4)*, Sanju Samson c Sai Kishore b Prasidh 41 *(28b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Nitish Rana c Khejroliya b Siraj 1 *(3b)*, Riyan Parag c Buttler b Khejroliya 26 *(14b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Dhruv Jurel c Sai Sudharsan b Rashid 5 *(4b, 1x4)*, Shimron Hetmyer c Sai Kishore b Prasidh 52 *(32b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Shubham Dubey **(Impact Player for Fazalhaq Farooqi)** lbw b Rashid 1 *(3b)*, Jofra Archer c Gill b Prasidh 4 *(4b)*, Maheesh Theekshana c Sai Sudharsan b Sai Kishore 5 *(13b)*, Tushar Deshpande c Rashid b Sai Kishore 3 *(3b)*, Sandeep Sharma (not out) 6 *(5b)*; Extras (w-9): 9; Total (in 19.2 overs): 159.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-10 (Jaiswal, 1.2), 2-12 (Nitish, 2.2), 3-60 (Parag, 6.4), 4-68 (Jurel, 7.4), 5-116 (Samson, 12.2), 6-119 (Dubey, 13.2), 7-144 (Archer, 15.3), 8-145 (Hetmyer, 15.6), 9-150 (Deshpande, 16.5).

TITANS BOWLING

Siraj 4-0-30-1, Arshad 2-0-19-1, Prasidh 4-0-24-3, Khejroliya **(Impact Player for Rutherford)** 3-0-29-1, Rashid 4-0-37-2, Sai Kishore 2.2-0-20-2.

Toss: Royals. **PoM:** Sai Sudharsan.

Royal Challengers, Capitals tussle to extend early form

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Royal Challengers Bengaluru takes on Delhi Capitals in a battle between form sides at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Thursday.

RCB has enjoyed a good start to the season, winning three of four matches, while DC sits pretty with three straight victories.

The only blemish for RCB, incidentally, came in its first home match, against Gujarat Titans.

RCB skipper Rajat Patidar, who came into his own with a 32-ball 64 against Mumbai Indians a few days ago, will hope that a sweet homecoming awaits.

The home team will be encouraged by consistent contributions from Virat Kohli and Jitesh Sharma. Experienced left-arm spinner Krunal Pandya, who bagged four wickets against MI, has exceeded expectations with the ball.

If opener Phil Salt can find his groove, RCB can be near unstoppable.

The match offers K.L. Rahul the chance to show his wares in a familiar setting. The Karnataka cricketer, a batting mainstay for DC, has benefitted from shifting to a more attacking approach.

Rahul will be tasked with taking on the new ball, in the event that Faf du Plessis is not fit. The South African missed the previous match, but he did have a hit in the nets here on Wednesday.

DC assistant coach Matthew Mott remained noncommittal on the availability of the 40-year-old. “I think he’ll get assessed today by the physios. He certainly looks like he’s moving around a lot better. He’s a key player for us,” Mott said.

Asked about the nature of the injury, Mott said: “It’s somewhere in the groin area”.

In focus: It remains to be seen whether du Plessis, coming off an injury, will take the field against Royal Challengers. K. MURALI KUMAR

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	5	4	1	8	1.413
Delhi Capitals	3	3	0	6	1.257
Royal Challengers	4	3	1	6	1.015
Punjab Kings	4	3	1	6	0.289
Lucknow Super Giants	5	3	2	6	0.078
Kolkata Knight Riders	5	2	3	4	-0.056
Rajasthan Royals	5	2	3	4	-0.733
Mumbai Indians	5	1	4	2	-0.010
Chennai Super Kings	5	1	4	2	-0.889
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	1	4	2	-1.629

** Till the GT-RR match on April 9*

Today’s match

RCB vs. Delhi Capitals
Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 31
RCB 19 | DC 11 | NR 1

PREVIOUS MEETING
RCB won by 47 runs, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

We were sloppy in the field and lacked accuracy, feels Fleming

Sankar Narayanan E.H.
NEW CHANDIGARH

Luck is only as good as the opportunities you seize.

While Punjab Kings’ Priyansh Arya cashed in on the lives he got, Chennai Super Kings batters did not make use of the multiple reprieves they received in the IPL fixture at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium here on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old’s unwavering courage, even after getting two lifelines, helped him smash the second-fastest century by an Indian in the IPL (39 balls).

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming lauded Priyansh’s knock while acknowledging that fielding cost the side dear.

“Priyansh had a day out, didn't he? It's very brave to come off a first-ball dismissal [against Rajasthan Royals] and look to play like that. It's pretty special to go out and create the innings yourself when batters at the other end are faltering,” Fleming said after CSK’s 18-run loss.

Attack mode: Priyansh and Shashank were involved in a crucial half-century partnership. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

“The first ball we bowled straight [against Priyansh], we created a caught-and-bowled chance, and that [had it been caught] changes the night quite drastically... the game was really lost in the field. I thought we were sloppy and just lacked accuracy under pressure.”

Before his first foray into the IPL, Priyansh made the headlines by smashing six sixes in an over for South Delhi Superstarz in the Delhi Premier League.

Shashank Singh – who himself rode his luck while notching up a half-century in PBKS’ win – said such State T20 leagues will aid the youngsters get better faster.

“Oh yes, I am really in favour of these leagues. We saw Priyansh today (on Tuesday), and Digvesh Rathi in Lucknow Super Giants. These are players who did well for their State leagues,” Shashank said.

“These leagues are good as you get an opportunity to play under lights and in pressure situations... because skills, obviously, most of them will have. But then you get to see the mental toughness and the character during these State leagues”.

Priyansh worked on cut and pull shots against pacers in build-up, says coach

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Priyansh Arya waltzed from 80 to 102 in the space of four deliveries against Chennai Super Kings in New Chandigarh on Tuesday. He did so by taming CSK’s fastest bowler Matheesha Pathirana, walloping the Sri Lankan slinger for three consecutive sixes before bringing up his maiden IPL century with a four between short third and backward point. In that blitz were two back-to-back pulls that sailed over the midwicket and square leg boundaries, showing scant regard for Pathirana’s pace and reputation as a death-overs specialist.

In the lead-up to his debut IPL season, having been picked for ₹3.8 crore by Punjab Kings, the 24-year-old from Delhi had given special attention to the challenge of conquering the fast bowlers. Belonging to the stable of Sanjay Bhardwaj, who has trained the likes of Gautam Gambhir, Amit Mishra, Nitish Rana and Joginder Sharma, Priyansh stationed himself at his coach’s residential academy in Bhopal before the marquee assignment to work on his shots against pace.

Putting in the hard yards: Priyansh’s attacking approach brought him rewards. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

“Priyansh trained in Bhopal for 20-25 days. He practised a lot against fast bowlers, specifically on the cut and pull shots,” Bhardwaj told *The Hindu*.

“In the IPL, unless you are a player capable of taking on the fast bowlers, you won’t get preference. The world’s best pacers are there and unless you master how to dominate them, you won’t be successful. He would play 200-300 pulls and 200-300 cuts every day. He faced side-armers and medium-pacers. The practice wickets were bouncy.”

Priyansh set the tone for the night by cutting Khaleel Ahmed over backward point for a six off the very first ball of the game. That he had been dismissed for a first-ball duck by Jofra Archer in the previous game had no bearing. Bhardwaj puts it down to Priyansh’s see-ball, hit-ball approach.

“His main strength is attacking and he does it on instinct. He does see and play rather than think and play. When you think and play, it leads to doubt or confusion,” the coach said.

INBRIEF

Ju wins fifth game, leads in World Championship match

Defending champion Ju Wenjun won the fifth game in FIDE women's world championship 2025 on Wednesday after Chinese compatriot Tan Zhongyi's ambitious opening play backfired. Ju took advantage of her opponent's misplayed opening. Tan nearly got compensation, but her quick and bold play only saw her drop another pawn, after which Ju overcame all the tricks to register a crucial win to take a 3-2 lead into Thursday's sixth game.

Top seed Korea outplays India 3-0 in WJT

Top seed Korea outplayed India 3-0 in a Group-A league match of the Asia-Oceania WJT under-14 boys tennis championship in Kuching (Malaysia) on Wednesday. The Indian boys – Paranjay Siwach, Viraj Choudhary and Kaustubh Sngh – could muster only nine games in all from the tie, in three rubbers.

The results: League: Korea bt India 3-0 (Kim Siyun bt Paranjay Siwach 6-2, 6-3; Jang Junseo bt Viraj Choudhary 6-0, 6-2; Kim Geonho, Kim Siyun bt Viraj & Kaustuh Singh 6-1, 6-1).

Neeraj set to begin 2025 season in Doha

After an injury-marred 2024, a fully fit Neeraj Chopra is set to begin his 2025 athletics season at the Doha Diamond League, with his focus not just on distance but also on maintaining consistency, according to *Olympics.com*. For his season opener, the reigning javelin throw world champion and Paris 2024 Olympics silver medallist returns to a familiar venue in the Qatari capital, where he has launched his last two seasons. The Indian star won the 2023 edition with a throw of 88.67m and secured second place in 2024 with an effort of 88.36m, finishing behind Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch.

Vijayveer Sidhu shoots down 25m rapid fire pistol gold

Vijayveer Sidhu defeated Riccardo Mazzetti of Italy 29-28 for the 25m rapid fire pistol gold in the shooting World Cup in Buenos Aires on Tuesday.

The results: 10m air rifle: Mixed team: 1. China (Wang Zifei, Song Buhan) 17(631.4); 2. India (Arya Borse, Rudrankksh Patil) 9(630.5); 3. Argentina (Fernanda Russo, Marcelo Gutierrez) 17(629.8); India-2 (Narmada Nthin, Arjun Babuta) 13(629.6).

25m rapid fire pistol: Men: 1. Vijayveer Sidhu 29(579); 2. Riccardo Mazzetti (Ita) 28(578); 3. Yang Yuhao (Chn) 23(581); 10. Gurpreet Singh 575; 13. Anish Bhanwala 570.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Europa League: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Friday)
Conference League: Sony LIV, 10.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

Arsenal stuns holder Real Madrid via Rice's free-kick masterclass

Frattesi's last-gap strike helps Inter Milan take the first-leg advantage over an undermanned Bayern Munich

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Bend it like Declan: Rice curls in Arsenal's opener past Real's defence. AP

Arsenal stormed to a stunning 3-0 win over Champions League holder Real Madrid as Declan Rice's free-kick masterclass left the Gunners within touching distance of a place in the semi-finals.

Rice scored two majestic free-kicks in the second half of the quarterfinal first leg at the Emirates Stadium.

Mikel Merino added Arsenal's third goal before Real's Eduardo Camavinga was sent off for kicking the ball away in the closing minutes to leave the Spanish giant in disarray.

The brilliance of Rice's brace cannot be understated, with even Real keeper Thibaut Courtois – usually so inspired on Champions League nights – unable to get anywhere near the England midfielder's thunderbolts.

Incredibly, Rice had never scored a free-kick in his career before the first of his missiles hit the back of the Real net.

It was no more than Arsenal deserved for a mature performance that exposed injury-hit Real in ruthless style.

Mikel Arteta's men will travel to the Bernabeu for the second leg on April 16 as firm favourites to advance.

Meanwhile, an 88th-minute Davide Frattesi goal took Inter Milan to a 2-1 win at Bayern Munich, giving the Italians the edge after their quarterfinal first leg.

Undermanned Bayern, nursing a bulging casualty ward, set the tone in the first half-hour, with Michael Olise and Harry Kane narrowly failing to break through.

Inter opened the scoring on the 38-minute mark when Marcus Thuram's clever back-heel found Lautaro Martinez who blasted home.

The Italians maintained control until Bayern veteran Thomas Muller scored the equaliser with a typical poacher's finish with five minutes remaining.

Inter broke on the counter just three minutes later, with Carlos Augusto finding Frattesi, who scored Inter's second.

The results (quarterfinals, first leg): Arsenal 3 (Rice 58, 70, Merino 75) bt Real Madrid 0; Bayern Munich 1 (Muller 85) lost to Inter Milan 2 (Martinez 38, Frattesi 88).

Ankita & Prarthana power India to a superb win over Thailand

TENNIS

Kamesh Srinivasan
PUNE

Planning a victory: Prarthana and Ankita during the thrilling doubles contest. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Ankita Raina and Prarthana Thombare combined well to beat Peangtarn Plipuech and Patcharin Cheapchandej 7-6(3), 3-6, [10-3] in the decisive doubles against Thailand in the Asia-Oceania Billie Jean King Cup women's tennis championship at the Balewadi Stadium on Wednesday.

It was an admirable recovery by India, especially after Sahaja Yamalapalli had to retire with a bout of cramps early in the third set in the second rubber against Mananchaya Sawangkaew.

Ankita and Prarthana handled the energetic Thais, with assurance, especially in the super tie-break, racing away to set up six match points, and closing it out without any further drama.

Earlier, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty gave further evidence of her strong all-round game and a sound temparament as she wriggled out of a tight situation in the second set to beat the 170th ranked Lanlana Tararudee 6-2, 6-4.

Shrivalli trailed 2-4 in the second set, but turned it around by winning the next four games.

Sahaja fought hard, till she was downed by a bout of cramps early in the third set when she had to retire.

It was a gutsy fare from her that she won the second set tie-break, after having failed to serve out that set in the tenth and 12th games.

Manachanaya Sawangkaew was indeed very crafty, and made Sahaja work for every point.

Meanwhile, world No.41 Lulu Sun once again won her singles and doubles matches, to pull New Zealand to its second 2-1 victory, past Korea.

Sohyun Park gave a flying start for Korea by racing away with the first singles, but the Wimbledon quarterfinalist Lulu won the second singles in straight sets against Dayeon Back. She joined Monique Barry to beat Kim Dabin and Eunhye Lee 10-8 in the super tie-break of the doubles.

The results (league): India bt Thailand 2-1 (Shrivalli Bhamidipaty bt Lanlana Tararudee 6-2, 6-4; Sahaja Yamalapalli lost to Mananchaya Sawangkaew 3-6, 7-6(3), 0-1 (retd.); Ankita Raina & Prarthana Thombare bt Patcharin Cheapchandej & Peangtarn Plipuech 7-6(3), 3-6, [10-3]).

New Zealand bt Korea 2-1 (Renee Zhang lost to Sohyun Park 1-6, 0-6; Lulu Sun bt Dayeon Back 6-4, 6-1; Monique Barry & Lulu Sun bt Kim Dabin & Eunhye Lee 6-3, 4-6, [10-8]).

Punjab opens with win over Odisha

HOCKEY

Sports Bureau

A 55th-minute strike by Pardeep Singh helped Punjab open its campaign in the 15th men's hockey National championships Division A with a 3-2 win over Odisha in Jhansi on Wednesday, which suffered its second defeat in as many matches to be knocked out of the competition.

Odisha came back twice to level scores but the team paid the price for missing six of its seven penalty corners through the Pool-A match.

Uttar Pradesh beat Tamil Nadu 2-1 to top Pool-C.

The results: Pool-A: Punjab 3 (Jugraj Singh 16, Araijeet Singh Hundal 48, Pardeep Singh 55) bt Odisha 2 (Amit Rohidas 37, Matiyas Dang 51).

B: Haryana 2 (Sanjay 5, 22) bt Maharashtra 1 (Devinder Walmiki 60).

C: Uttar Pradesh 2 (Shardanand Tiwari 12, Shivam Anand 36) bt Tamil Nadu 1 (S. Karthi 34).

D: Manipur 1 (Nilakanta Sharma 44) drew with Karnataka 1 (Majji Ganesh 50).

Kiran, Rajawat, Sindhu in pre-quarters

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
NINGBO (CHINA)

Easily done: Kiran won his opening match in straight games. X@BADMINTON_ASIA

Kiran George made it to the men's singles pre-quarterfinals of the the Badminton Asia Championships, with a 21-16, 21-8 first round win over Dmitriy Panarin of Kazakhstan in 35 minutes, here on Wednesday.

Priyanshu Rajawat won 20-22, 21-12, 21-10 over Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen.

P.V. Sindhu also made the second round in women's singles with a 21-15, 21-19 victory over Indonesia's Ester Nurumi Tri Wardoyo.

The results (first round): Men: Zu Guang Luin (Chn) bt H.S. Prannoy 21-16, 12-21, 21-11.

Kiran George bt Dmitriy Panarin (Kaz) 21-16, 21-8; Chia Hao Lee (Tpe) bt Lakshya Sen 21-18, 21-10; Piyanshu Rajawat bt Kantaphon Wangcharoen (Tha) 20-22, 21-12, 21-10.

Doubles: Hariharan Amsakarunan & Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi bt Madhuka Dulanjana & Lahiru Weerasinghe (SL) 21-3, 21-12; Chiu Hsiang Chieh & Wang Chi-Lin (Tpe) bt Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy & K. Sai Pratheek 21-19, 21-12.

Women: P.V. Sindhu bt Ester Nurumi Tri Wardoyo (Ina) 21-15, 21-19; Han Yue (Chn) bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-13, 21-7.

Ratchanok Intanon (Tha) bt Anupama Upadhyaya 21-13, 21-14; Fang Jie Gao (Chn) bt Malvika Bansod 21-14, 21-8.

Doubles: Shuo Yun Sung & Chien Hui Yu (Tpe) bt Priya Konjengbam & Shruti Mishra 21-11, 21-13.

Anirudh-Hernandez duo beats top seeds

Sports Bureau

Anirudh Chandrasekar and David Hernandez of Spain beat top seeds Guido Andreozzi and Theo Arribage 3-6, 7-5, [10-8] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €145,250 Challenger tennis tournament in Madrid on Wednesday.

Other results: $200,000 Challenger, Mexico - Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sriram Balaji & Miguel Reyes-Varela (Mex) bt Materus Alves (Bra) & Stefano Napolitano (Ita) 6-3, 6-2.

€145,250 Challenger, Madrid, Spain: Doubles (pre-quarters): Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Jiri Barnat & Filip Duda (Cze) 6-2, 5-7, [10-6].

€145,250 Challenger, Monza, Italy: Singles (first round): Filip Misolic (Aut) bt Sumit Nagal 6-2, 1-0 (retired).

Doubles (pre-quarters): Matej Vocel (Cze) & Szymon Walkow (Pol) bt Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth 6-3, 3-6, [10-7].

$30,000 ITF men, Santa Margherita di Pula, Italy: Singles (pre-quarters): Giovanni Oradini (Ita) bt Manas Dhamne 6-4, 7-5.

$100,000 ITF women, Zaragoza, Spain: Doubles (pre-quarters): Olivia Gadecki (Aus) & Aldila Sutjiadi (Ina) bt Rutuja Bhosale & Paige Hourigan (Nzl) 6-1, 6-1.

HELP US TO SERVE YOU BETTER

Items strictly PROHIBITED at the Stadium during IPL 2025

FOOD ITEMS
SOFT DRINK BOTTLES
BRIEFCASE, PEN, HELMET
KNIVES, SCISSORS, NAIL CUTTERS
LIGHTER, MATCH BOX, FIRE CRACKERS
CAMERA, BINOCULAR, HANDYCAM
LAPTOPS, TABLETS, iPad, AirPods & iPods
CHARGERS, WIRES
INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL
PETROL, DIESEL,
TOYS, TOY GUN
UMBRELLA, BACKPACKS
ALCOHOL
ARMS, AMMUNITION
CARRY BAGS, BAGS
PERFUMES, GELS
THERMOS FLASKS
WATER BOTTLES
GUTKA, SUPARI
CIGARETTES, BIDIS

If you find any unidentified/suspicious object please inform your nearest security personnel

INFORMATION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Reach the venue 3 hours before the start of the game to avoid rush.
- Check your ticket for the Entry Gate and location.
- Co-operate with police / security personnel for searching / frisking.
- Entry only for persons with valid tickets / Accreditation.
- Gathering of groups near gates and around the stadium is prohibited.
- Follow Q system for easy flow.
- Be alert about your surroundings.

P
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